

The authors would like to thank the reviewers for their comments that helped us to improve our manuscript. We have tried to address all comments appropriately. Additionally, we have added a reference for the calculation of the refractive properties (Li et al., 2007). We have also slightly improved Figure S2 by hatching the region where the probability of a negative refractive index is greater equal 50% . All changes can be retraced in the manuscript version including track changes.

Anonymous Referee #1

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General comments

The authors have analysed ozone changes between 1960-2000, using simulations from a coupled chemistry-climate model. They show that ozone loss through the late 20th century due to ozone-depleting substances was offset by greenhouse gas increases over the same period. They have undertaken a detailed analysis of all processes contributing to such non-linearities, to identify the chemical mechanisms and transport processes responsible. The paper is very thorough, both with respect to the literature cited and the analysis undertaken. I recommend publication in ACP after the comments below have been addressed.

Specific comments

P. 9259 L9. How long was the spin-up period used?

The spin-up time was 2 years. We have scaled the initial concentrations of the long-lived chemical substances to the value of the respective year, derived from a transient simulation with the same model and the same surface boundary conditions. This reduces the time that is needed to reach an equilibrium state. We found that in these timeslice simulations an equilibrium state is given after approximately 2 years.

We have included this information in the text:

After a spin-up period (two years with previous scaling of the initial concentrations of long-lived chemical substances), each experiment has been integrated for 40 years.

P. 9260 L3. What is meant by solar-mean conditions? More information is needed.

“Solar mean” means the average of the 11-year solar cycle. We used spectral solar flux input data averaged between the maximum and minimum of solar cycle 22 (from September 1986 to May 1996).

We have added this information to the text:

In all experiments mean conditions of the 11-year solar cycle are prescribed, using the average of the spectral solar flux between the minimum and the maximum of solar cycle 22.

P. 9261 L24/25. Do GHGs cause the ozone increase below 100 hPa or is it rather the increase in ozone precursors? I suspect it comes from increases in NO_x and CH₄. Regardless, it should be made clear what is behind the increase.

We agree that this sentence is not clear. The ozone increase below 100 hPa is attributed to the GHGs since our experimental setup doesn't allow to distinguish between the effects of GHGs and ozone precursors. However, as you said, the ozone increase in the upper troposphere is probably due to the increase in ozone

precursors.

We have clarified this in the text:

Rising levels of GHGs (blue) lead to an ozone increase in the middle and upper stratosphere (by up to 2.5%) and hence counteract the ODS-induced ozone loss. The positive ozone change below 100hPa attributed to GHGs is probably caused by increasing concentrations of ozone precursors, but it isn't distinguishable from the GHG effect due to our experimental setup (see Section 2).

P. 9268 L26. Why is ClO_x-catalysed O₃ loss reduced? More CH₄ equals a faster rate of the CH₄+Cl reaction?

Yes. The ClO_x-catalysed O₃ loss is reduced because less chlorine is present as radicals (Cl, ClO). This is caused by an enhanced formation of reservoir species, for example through the reaction CH₄+Cl. We have discussed this in Section 3.2.1 in more detail. We included a reference to this section in the text.

P. 9269 L7-9 could do with some re-writing to make it clear what is going on. E.g. Why does increased photolysis of N₂O equal less NO_x? I assume because less N₂O reacts with O(1D) to form NO? Why does increased halogen loading increase the photolysis rate of N₂O? Is it because halogens deplete overhead column ozone?

We tried to clarify this now in the text:

In the stratosphere N₂O is destroyed either by photolysis or by the reaction with an excited oxygen atom O(1D). However, only the latter reaction path produces NO_x. Increasing halogen loading leads to a reduction of stratospheric NO_x above the 50hPa level by diminishing the overhead ozone column and thus increasing the photolysis rate of N₂O, which mitigates the NO_x production. Furthermore, an enhanced formation of reservoir species (ClONO₂, BrONO₂) may also contribute to the NO_x reduction (not shown).

P. 9272 L1. You should say why your results differ to those of McLandress et al. (2010). Is this expected, because of different approaches used?

We think, that using different approaches (transient vs. timeslice simulations) is one possible explanation. Another important point, however, is that in the ODS and GHG simulations used by McLandress et al. (2010) to detect nonadditive responses, only the radiative effects of the GHGs are changed. The chemical effects of increasing CH₄ and N₂O, however, are included in both simulations. Thus, nonlinear effects on the dynamics arising from nonlinear ozone changes are probably not detectable.

We added the following sentence in the text:

This is potentially related to the different approach (timeslice vs. transient simulations) used in our study compared to McLandress et al. (2010) and also to the fact that the chemical effect of increasing CH₄ and N₂O is solely included in our 'GHG only' and not in our 'ODS only' simulation as it is in the study by McLandress et al. (2010). Thus in our study, nonlinear effects on the dynamics arising from nonlinear ozone changes are more likely to be detected.

P. 9276 L22-26. This is an important/interesting point and I think it should be included in the abstract, which finishes rather abruptly.

We have included the following sentences in the Abstract:

The existence of nonlinearities implies that future ozone change due to ODS decline slightly depends on the prevailing GHG concentrations. Therefore the future ozone evolution will not simply be a reversal of the past.

Technical comments

P. 9254 L8/9. The use of a double negative (reduction of ozone decrease) is confusing, such that it is unclear what the 1.2% maximum refers to. Please clarify this.

We agree. However, this is not easy to change in positive since nonlinearity does not lead to a net ozone increase, but only weakens the ozone loss. We have tried to clarify this in the text:

Due to nonlinearity the past ozone loss is diminished throughout the stratosphere, with a maximum reduction of 1.2% at 3hPa.

P. 9255 L7. Change 'is' to 'was' as ODS concentrations are no longer increasing in the stratosphere.

done

L19. You could clarify that you mean the Chapman O₃ loss reaction.

done

P. 9256 L3/4. I assume you mean the chemical production of ozone; please clarify this.

done

L26. Correct 'effect' to 'effects.'

done

P. 9264 L25. Correct the spelling of 'increasing.'

done

P. 9273 L3. Correct the spelling of 'strengthening.'

done

Figure 1. Label panels with (a) and (b).

done

Figure 3. Add '30N' to title of (c) and '60N' to title of panel (d).

We have added 30°N and 60°S to the title of the respective panels.

Figure 9. Replacing 'SP' and 'NP' on the x-axis with 90S and 90N would be more consistent with other figures.

done

The authors would like to thank the reviewers for their comments that helped us to improve our manuscript. We have tried to address all comments appropriately. Additionally, we have added a reference for the calculation of the refractive properties (Li et al., 2007). We have also slightly improved Figure S2 by hatching the region where the probability of a negative refractive index is greater equal 50% .

Some of the comments refer to an older version of the manuscript and have been addressed in the revisions after the quick review. These modifications are therefore not indicated as new changes in the manuscript. All other changes can be retraced in the manuscript version including track changes.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 17 April 2015

Review of Meul et al. "Nonlinear response of modeled stratospheric ozone to changes in greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances in the recent past"

This study examines the interactions between the simultaneous increasing of GHG and ODS concentrations on stratospheric ozone. Focusing on the non-additive impacts which are not modeled in studies in which a single forcing is changed. Maximum impacts on stratospheric ozone occur in the upper stratosphere in the annual mean but important seasonal difference do occur in other regions. The carefully targeted simulations and analysis packages allow for the separation of chemistry and transport impacts. This study is carefully done and clear and well written. I think it would be interest to the Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics readership and would recommend publication with only a few minor comments and corrections for the authors to consider.

lines 150-151 change "are not included neither" to "are also not included"

Changed to "are not included either"

line 162 change "as combined" to "as the combined"

Changed to "as a combined effect"

lines 177-178 consider changing "model data" to "model output" You might consider reserving the use of the word "data" for observations and use "output" when you refer to that produced by simulations.

done

lines 192-193 it might be clearer if you move "(blue)" to right after GHGs

done

line 194 change "counteracts the ODS" to "counteracts some of the ODS"

We think that "counteract the ODS-induced ozone loss" is adequate here since "counteract" doesn't necessarily mean "balance" and therefore includes also the case that it comprises just a part of the ODS-induced ozone loss.

lines 196-198 Are you able to separate circulation effects from reverse self healing to determine the relative effects?

Yes, we separated the ozone changes due to changes in production, loss and transport with the method described in Garny et al. (2013). We find a negative contribution from transport and a (smaller) positive from ozone production due to the self healing effect. The net change is negative. However, in this study we focus on the nonlinear contribution and therefore, we decided not to go into further details

on this topic.

line 205 change “by -15 %” to “of -15 %”

Changed to “largest changes (-15%) occurring in the SH polar region”

line 246 midlatitudes is spelled incorrectly

done

line 262 increasing is spelled incorrectly

done

lines 324-325 change “by a reduced downwelling” to “by reduced downwelling” or “reduction in downwelling”

done

Nonlinear response of modeled stratospheric ozone to changes in greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances in the recent past

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Abstract. In the recent past, the evolution of stratospheric ozone (O₃) was affected by both increasing ozone depleting substances (ODSs) and greenhouse gases (GHGs). The impact of the single forcings on O₃ is well known. Interactions between the simultaneously increased GHG and ODS concentrations, however, can occur and lead to nonlinear O₃ changes. In this study, we investigate

5 if nonlinear processes have affected O₃ changes between 1960 and 2000. This is done with an idealized set of timeslice simulations with the chemistry-climate model (CCM) EMAC. ~~Nonlinearity leads to a net reduction of ozone decrease throughout the stratosphere, with a maximum of 1.2 % at 3 hPa.~~ Due to nonlinearity the past ozone loss is diminished throughout the stratosphere, with a maximum reduction of 1.2 % at 3 hPa. The total ozone column loss between 1960 and 2000 that is

10 mainly attributed to the ODS increase is mitigated in the extra-polar regions by up to 1.1 % due to nonlinear processes. A separation of the O₃ changes into the contribution from chemistry and transport shows that nonlinear interactions occur in both. In the upper stratosphere a reduced efficiency of the ClO_x-catalysed O₃ loss chiefly causes the nonlinear O₃ increase. An enhanced formation of halogen reservoir species through the reaction with methane (CH₄) reduces the abundance of halo-

15 gen radicals significantly. The temperature induced deceleration of the O₃ loss reaction rate in the Chapman cycle is reduced, which leads to a nonlinear O₃ decrease and counteracts the increase due to ClO_x. Nonlinear effects on the NO_x abundance cause hemispheric asymmetric nonlinear changes of the O₃ loss. Nonlinear changes in O₃ transport occur in particular in the southern hemisphere (SH) during the months September to November. Here, the residual circulation is weakened in the

20 lower stratosphere, which goes along with a reduced O₃ transport from the tropics to high latitudes. Thus, O₃ decreases in the SH polar region, but increases in the SH midlatitudes. The existence of nonlinearities implies that future ozone change due to ODS decline slightly depends on the prevailing

GHG concentrations. Therefore the future ozone evolution will not simply be a reversal of the past.

1 Introduction

25 During the 20th century both the emissions of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) and greenhouse
gases (GHGs) increased, which had a large effect on stratospheric ozone (O_3) (e.g., *WMO*, 2007).
Observations show that between 1979 and 2000 the total column ozone decreased by 2-3 %/decade
at midlatitudes in the annual mean and by up to 12 %/decade in the southern hemisphere (SH) polar
region in spring (e.g., *Fioletov et al.*, 2002). This development ~~is~~ was mainly caused by increasing
30 concentrations of ODSs (e.g., *WMO*, 2007). As these compounds are relatively chemically inert
in the troposphere, they are transported into the stratosphere where they are decomposed, releasing
reactive chlorine and bromine compounds at levels well above the natural background concentra-
tions. The chlorine and bromine radicals can then initiate catalytic reaction cycles which destroy
ozone (e.g., *Molina and Rowland*, 1974). In the polar regions in spring, this catalytic ozone loss is
35 especially effective since the occurrence of polar stratospheric clouds in winter leads to an enhanced
conversion of halogen reservoir species to radicals (e.g., *Solomon et al.*, 1986).

Increasing concentrations of the well-mixed GHGs carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and
nitrous oxide (N_2O) affect the ozone evolution in addition to the ODS induced changes by different
mechanisms. They change the radiative budget of the atmosphere and therefore cool the strato-
40 sphere (e.g., *IPCC*, 1996). This decelerates the Chapman O_3 loss reaction, O_3+O , and accelerates
the reaction O_2+O+M , which controls the partitioning of O_x ($=O+O_3$), and hence increases ozone
(e.g., *Rosenfield et al.*, 2002; *Jonsson et al.*, 2004). At the same time, the temperatures of the tro-
posphere and of the oceans increase, which alter the stratospheric meridional residual circulation
(Brewer-Dobson circulation, BDC) (e.g., *Garny et al.*, 2011) and therefore the transport of ozone
45 and other chemical species such as chlorine source gases (e.g., *Butchart and Scaife*, 2001; *Cook*
and Roscoe, 2012). Increased emissions of CO_2 , CH_4 and N_2O lead to changes in the stratospheric
 NO_x ($=NO+NO_2$) (e.g., *Rosenfield and Douglass*, 1998) and HO_x ($=OH+HO_2$) abundances (e.g.,
LeTexier et al., 1988) and also modify chemical ozone loss (e.g., *Portmann et al.*, 2007; *Revell et*
al., 2012). Furthermore, the chemical production of O_3 via CH_4 oxidation is increased in the lower
50 stratosphere (e.g., *Johnston and Podolske*, 1978; *Nevison et al.*, 1999), while the chemical O_3 pro-
duction through photolysis is decreased due to the reversed “self-healing” effect (e.g., *Portmann et*
al., 2007).

Former studies have analysed the contributions from increasing GHG and ODS concentrations to
the past ozone change. So far, observational timeseries have been too short to clearly separate the
55 effects using multiple linear regression (*Stolarski et al.*, 2010). Therefore, simulations with CCMs
are used for attribution studies. Different strategies for the attribution are discussed in *McLandress*
et al. (2010), ranging from the multiple linear regression analysis of a single transient simulation

including all forcings (e.g., *Oman et al.*, 2010) to the comparison of a set of simulations with different forcings (e.g., *Waugh et al.*, 2009). Differences among the studies arise also from the explanatory variables that are used as proxy for the GHG effect (e.g., temperature or CO₂), and the processes that are considered (e.g., including composition changes by CH₄ and N₂O increases). However, qualitatively all studies agree and consistently show that increasing ODSs are the dominant driver of past ozone loss, while the GHG increase has led to an ozone increase in the upper stratosphere (e.g., *Waugh et al.*, 2009; *Oman et al.*, 2010; *Shepherd and Jonsson*, 2008; *Jonsson et al.*, 2009).

Since both GHG and ODS abundances have increased simultaneously in the atmosphere, interactions between the forcings may occur (e.g., *Cicerone et al.*, 1983; *Yang and Brasseur*, 2001). In most attribution studies, however, those nonlinear interactions, or buffering effects, are not considered, either by simply assuming linearity (e.g., *Jonsson et al.*, 2009) or by using explanatory variables that can be affected by nonlinear processes themselves (e.g. the temperature or the abundance of stratospheric halogen radicals; *Jonsson et al.*, 2009; *Nevison et al.*, 1999, respectively).

The ~~effect~~ effects of nonlinearities on ozone were analysed by *Haigh and Pyle* (1982) by simultaneously changing ODS and GHG concentrations. They used four experiments with a two-dimensional circulation model: a control run with low CO₂ concentrations and without chlorine chemistry, a run with increasing levels of CO₂ and without chlorine chemistry, a run with low CO₂ concentrations and high ODS concentrations and a run with increasing levels of CO₂ and high ODS levels. With this set of simulations it is possible to detect nonlinear effects. *Haigh and Pyle* (1982) found that the ozone changes in the upper stratosphere caused by the coupled perturbation are not equal to the sum of the individual changes. The ozone decrease due to the combined forcing is larger than the ozone decrease expected from the sum of the ODS and the GHG effect. For total column ozone, they reported a decrease from 1960 values by 3.2 % due to an ODS increase to predicted 2000 levels. Total column ozone is increased by 3 % due to an increase of the CO₂ content from 320 ppm to 400 ppm, a value slightly higher than actually observed in the year 2000. The combined forcing results in a change of -0.6 % (compared to -0.2 % in the sum). They explained the nonlinearity with a reduced temperature dependency of ozone, and therefore a reduced positive effect of the GHGs if chlorine chemistry is considered.

A detailed analysis of nonlinear buffering effects between increasing halogen and GHG concentrations is reported in *Nevison et al.* (1999). They analysed the effect of simultaneously increased concentrations of halogens, CH₄ and N₂O on the NO_x, HO_x and halogen-catalysed ozone loss in model simulations. They found that increasing CH₄ together with the halogen concentrations mitigates the halogen-catalysed O₃ loss, since the reaction CH₄+Cl leads to the formation of the reservoir species HCl and thus to a reduced ClO_x/Cl_y ratio. Furthermore, increasing N₂O and hence NO_x causes a buffering of the HO_x and halogen-catalysed O₃ loss through the formation of the reservoir species HNO₃, ClONO₂ and BrONO₂.

Since both GHGs and ODSs affect the temperature of the stratosphere, nonlinear changes in the

95 temperature structure can have an impact on wave propagation and hence on the residual mean
circulation. This is analysed in detail in *McLandress et al. (2010)*. The study is based on a set of
transient simulations with the CCM CMAM, which allows the identification of a nonlinear response
to ODS and the [radiative effect of](#) GHG changes. The additivity is tested by comparing the long-
term trends from the sum of the experiments with either ODSs or GHGs fixed with the trends from
100 the simulation with both changing GHGs and ODSs. They state that the response in the zonal mean
temperature, zonal mean zonal wind and the mass flux in SH spring and summer is linear within the
statistical uncertainty.

For future ozone changes, the issue of additivity is briefly addressed in the study by *Zubov et al.*
(2013) who analysed a set of timeslice simulations with the CCM SOCOL focusing on the future
105 role of GHG, ODS and SST/SIC forcing. They find positive nonlinear annual mean ozone changes
in the tropical upper stratosphere and the SH polar lower stratosphere. However, the underlying
processes are not discussed.

In this study we want to address the question of the relevance of nonlinear processes in ozone
chemistry and transport in the recent past. We aim to clarify if ozone evolution was affected by non-
110 linear interactions between the increasing concentrations of well-mixed GHGs and ODSs. Therefore,
we want to consider the effects of both changing temperature and chemical composition, and account
for nonlinear changes in all processes. This is realized with the help of an idealized set of multi-year
equilibrium simulations with a state-of-the-art CCM following the strategy by *Zubov et al. (2013)*.
The advantage of timeslice simulations compared to transient experiments is the improved statistical
115 basis, which allows the detection of small signals. In these simulations we detect and quantify the
contribution of nonlinearities to the ozone change between 1960 and 2000 and analyse the processes
leading to the nonlinearities.

The study is composed as follows. In section 2 the model and the experiments used in this study
are described. The results are discussed in section 3, followed by a summary and conclusion in
120 section 4.

2 Model and Experimental Setup

A set of equilibrium simulations has been performed with the ECHAM/MESSy Atmospheric Chem-
istry (EMAC) CCM version 1.7 (*Jöckel et al., 2006*). The core atmospheric model is ECHAM5 (the
5th generation European Centre Hamburg general circulation model (GCM); *Roeckner et al., 2006*).
125 Via the Modular Earth Submodel System (MESSy1) the core model is coupled to the atmospheric
chemistry module MECCA1 (Module Efficiently Calculating the Chemistry of the Atmosphere;
Sander et al., 2005) and to a standard set of submodels describing tropospheric and middle atmo-
sphere processes. Additionally, the highly resolved short-wave radiation parameterisation FUBRad
(*Nissen et al., 2007*) is used. The model is run with horizontal resolution T42 (corresponding to a

130 quadratic Gaussian grid of approx. $2.8^\circ \times 2.8^\circ$) and 39 hybrid model layers between the surface and 0.01 hPa (~ 80 km). Since this model version is not coupled to an ocean model, the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) and sea ice concentrations (SICs) are prescribed. After a spin-up period ([two years with previous scaling of the initial concentrations of long-lived chemical substances](#)), each experiment has been integrated for 40 years.

135 The performance of the EMAC model in this configuration has been evaluated in different model intercomparison studies (e.g., *Austin et al.*, 2010; *Eyring et al.*, 2010) with respect to the ozone evolution. EMAC is within the range of other CCMs, but the observed ozone depletion in the Antarctic spring is not fully captured by simulations with EMAC.

To analyse the additivity of the ozone response to the GHG and ODS forcing between 1960 and
140 2000, four timeslice simulations are required, analogous to *Haigh and Pyle* (1982) and *Zubov et al.* (2013): Two simulations that represent the reference states of the atmosphere for the year 1960 (*R1960*) and the year 2000 (*R2000*) with observed mixing ratios of well-mixed GHGs (CO_2 , CH_4 , N_2O) from the *IPCC* (2001) and the ODSs from the *WMO* (2007) for the corresponding years, and two simulations in which just the GHG (*GHG2000*) or the ODS (*ODS2000*) boundary conditions
145 are set to present day conditions while the other is kept at 1960 levels. The RETRO (REanalysis of the TROpospheric chemical composition) data set (*Schultz et al.*, 2007) is used for the emissions of tropospheric ozone precursors. The SSTs and SICs from a transient simulation with the coupled atmosphere ocean model ECHAM5/MPIOM (Max-Planck-Institute Ocean Model; *Jungclaus et al.*, 2006) are prescribed as 10-year averages for the period 1955-1964 in the *R1960* and *ODS2000*
150 simulations and for the period 1995-2004 for the *R2000* and the *GHG2000* simulations. Therefore, there is no variability due to ENSO in the prescribed SSTs/SICs timeseries. Other natural forcings such as solar variability, the quasi biennial oscillation (QBO), or volcanic eruptions are not included either. In all experiments ~~solar mean conditions are prescribed~~ [mean conditions of the 11-year solar cycle are prescribed, using the average of the spectral solar flux between the minimum and the](#)
155 [maximum of solar cycle 22](#). Since no QBO-nudging is applied, easterly winds prevail in the tropical stratosphere. For reference, the specific boundary conditions used for the simulations are listed in Table 1.

The response of ozone to the combined GHG and ODS forcing is determined by calculating the difference between the mean states of the *R2000* and the *R1960* simulations ($\text{total} = R2000 - R1960$).
160 With the help of the simulations *GHG2000* and *ODS2000* we can separate the effects due to GHGs ($\text{GHG} = GHG2000 - R1960$) and due to ODSs only ($\text{ODS} = ODS2000 - R1960$). To test the additivity a nonlinear contribution is calculated:

$$\text{nonlinear} = \text{total} - (\text{GHG} + \text{ODS}). \quad (1)$$

It has to be noted that changes in tropospheric ozone due to changes in the ozone precursors
165 are attributed to the GHG effect when using the described attribution method. The GHG effect is

calculated as a combined effect from CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O changes. The attribution to specifically CO₂, CH₄ or N₂O changes is not possible. Thus, effects of interactions between the GHG induced HO_x and NO_x changes, as reported for instance by *Nevison et al.* (1999), are not detectable.

To identify the processes causing nonlinear ozone changes, the annual mean ozone change is separated into the contributions from chemistry (chemical production and loss), transport and a residual term according to the method described in *Garny et al.* (2011) and *Meul et al.* (2014). Since the polar regions exhibit a large seasonal variability in ozone chemistry and ozone transport, the analysis must be extended to seasonal data. This means that in the attribution method the tendency term is no longer small and has to be considered. A non-zero ozone tendency over one season means that ozone production, loss and transport are not balanced but cause a change in the local ozone abundance. Therefore, the contribution from the tendency term to the relative ozone change is interpreted as the difference in the seasonal imbalance between chemistry and transport between the climate states. In the following analysis, the tendency term is not shown, but it is considered (together with the residual term) when adding up the single contributions to the total.

To separate the chemical ozone loss into the different loss cycles, the tool *StratO3Bud* (for details see *Meul et al.*, 2014) is applied to the model [data output](#). As discussed in *Meul et al.* (2014) a lower temporal resolution of the input data and a reduced set of reactions used in *StratO3Bud* lead, in some regions, to differences of the total ozone production and loss compared to the online integrated terms that are used for the separation into chemistry and transport. Therefore both loss quantities are shown in section 3 for comparison.

The uncertainty of the nonlinear signals is calculated from the joint standard deviations, based on the concept of error propagation. Significant changes on the 95 %/99 % confidence level are then estimated by the exceedance of two/three times the standard deviation ($2/3\sigma$).

3 Results

3.1 Ozone change and its drivers

The annual mean, global mean ozone change between the years 1960 and 2000 is shown in Fig. [1a \(top\)](#). Ozone mixing ratios are reduced throughout the stratosphere, with a maximum change of -12 % (= -3 %/decade) in the upper stratosphere (black line). This decrease is slightly smaller than that described in *Jonsson et al.* (2009) for the period 1975-1995. However, since the ozone decline was slower before 1975, the results are comparable. Consistent with the literature, the ozone decrease is mainly due to the increase in ODSs (green). Rising levels of GHGs ([blue](#)) lead to an ozone increase in the middle and upper stratosphere (by up to 2.5 %) ~~and below 100 hPa (blue)~~ and hence counteract the ODS-induced ozone loss. [The positive ozone change below 100 hPa attributed to GHGs is probably caused by increasing concentrations of ozone precursors, but it isn't distinguishable from the GHG effect due to our experimental setup \(see Section 2\).](#) The GHG-induced ozone increase in

the upper stratosphere is related to GHG-induced radiative cooling, which decelerates the temperature dependant ozone loss reactions (e.g., *Rosenfeld et al.*, 2002). The negative GHG-signal in the lower stratosphere, which is also found by *Jonsson et al.* (2009), originates from the tropics where a slightly strengthened upwelling (~~not shown~~) reduces the local abundance of ozone (~~not shown~~). In the lower mesosphere, the overall ozone loss is enhanced by the GHG effect. This is caused by an increase of the HO_x mixing ratio which is related to the higher CH₄ emissions (e.g., *Wuebbles and Hayhoe*, 2002). A slightly negative ozone change attributed to HO_x in the lower mesosphere is also reported by *Oman et al.* (2010) for the period 1960 to 1999.

The annual mean change in the total ozone column between 1960 and 2000 is shown in Fig. 1b (~~bottom~~) for all latitudes. Total column ozone is decreased globally with the largest changes ~~-15%~~ (-15 %) occurring in the SH polar region. The pattern of the changes in the SH is qualitatively comparable to the trends derived from observations (Fig. 3-22 from *WMO*, 2007) for the period 1980-2004. In the tropics, however, the total ozone column change in the simulations is larger than in the observations. Furthermore, ~~the gradient in the change from the tropics to the northern high latitudes~~ the meridional gradient of the O₃ change in the NH in the observations is not captured by the model. Here, the different periods considered for the calculation may play a role. However, regarding the contribution from the ODSs, the ozone changes show this ~~latitudinal~~ meridional gradient. This indicates that the change induced by the GHGs is too small in the tropics and too large in the northern hemisphere (NH), which suggests a slightly stronger increase in the transport of ozone from the tropics to the high latitudes in the timeslice simulations compared to the observations.

3.2 Nonlinear processes

3.2.1 Annual mean

In the atmosphere, GHG and ODS abundances have increased simultaneously and nonlinear interactions can occur. The difference between the sum of the single forcings (grey) and the change of simultaneously increased GHG and ODS mixing ratios (black) is shown by the red line in Fig. 1. Throughout the stratosphere the nonlinear contribution to the annual mean global mean ozone change is positive (Fig. 1a, ~~top~~). The largest nonlinear effect is found in the upper stratosphere, where it is as large as 1.2 %. Here, the ozone change due to nonlinearity is about half as large as the ozone change induced by GHG changes. Statistically significant nonlinear contributions are found above 100 hPa.

The vertically integrated nonlinear contribution for the different latitudes is shown in red in Fig. 1b (~~bottom~~). Significant positive changes are found in the extra-polar regions. At SH midlatitudes the nonlinear term causes up to 1.1 % increase. Nonlinearity has a slightly negative (not significant) contribution in the SH polar region in the annual mean, but a slightly positive contribution (not significant) in the NH polar region. All in all, due to nonlinear interactions between changing GHG

and ODS concentrations, the resulting ozone loss in the recent past is slightly smaller than expected from the single forcings.

To analyse the processes that underlie the nonlinear ozone changes, the regions with significant nonlinear changes have to be identified. In Fig. 2a, showing the vertically and latitudinally resolved annual mean nonlinear ozone change, two stratospheric regions are found: the extra-polar upper stratosphere and the SH midlatitude lower stratosphere. Both regions exhibit positive nonlinear contributions to the overall ozone change of 1-2 %. These regions of statistically significant nonlinear changes are in relatively good agreement with the regions identified by Zubov *et al.* (2013) for the future.

In the following we investigate which processes exhibit nonlinear interactions in the different regions. For this purpose the annual mean nonlinear ozone change is separated into the contributions from chemical ozone loss, chemical ozone production and ozone transport, shown in Fig. 2b-d, respectively. For the interpretation, it should be noted that not the changes in the processes are shown, but the changes in ozone that are attributed to the changed processes. Since the ozone tendency is inversely proportional to the (positive definite) chemical ozone loss, a positive ozone change attributed to chemical loss implies slowed ozone loss. It is found that in the upper stratosphere, the nonlinear ozone changes are caused by nonlinearities in the ozone chemistry, with a positive effect from ozone loss and a smaller negative from ozone production (Fig. 2b and c). In the tropical lower stratosphere and at NH midlatitudes the significant nonlinear effects from ozone loss and production nearly compensate each other, leading to insignificant changes in ozone. The positive nonlinear signal in the lower stratosphere at SH midlatitudes results from the contribution from both ozone chemistry and ozone transport. Nonlinear processes affecting the ozone transport cause an ozone increase in the tropical and SH midlatitudinal lower stratosphere and a decrease in the SH polar region (Fig. 2d). This indicates a reduced ozone transport into the SH polar stratosphere. However, to identify the involved processes it is necessary to analyse the seasonal changes in detail, since the BDC exhibits strong seasonal variability (see Section 3.2.2).

The next step is to understand how the nonlinear interactions are caused and which processes are responsible. First we analyse the reasons for the nonlinearity of the chemical ozone loss by separating the contributions from the different ozone loss cycles, applying the tool *StratO3bud*. For illustration, we show the attribution of the ozone changes due to ozone loss at 30°N and at 60°S (Fig. 3). Note that the use of *StratO3bud* can lead to quantitatively different results compared to Fig. 2b, which is indicated by the additional contour line (black with circles) in the top panel. In the upper stratosphere at NH midlatitudes (Fig. 3a), the nonlinear processes are acting in the same direction as the increasing GHG concentrations and are reducing the efficiency of the ozone loss, whereas the increase of the halogen loading causes an ozone decrease due to enhanced ozone loss. In the lower stratosphere both the GHG and ODS increase enhance the ozone loss. The nonlinear contribution, however, remains positive. At 60°S (Fig. 3b) the sign of the ozone changes attributed

to ~~increassing~~ increasing GHG and ODS concentrations is the same as at NH midlatitudes, but the ozone loss due to ODSs is clearly larger in the lower stratosphere, which is linked to the evolution
275 of the ozone hole. The nonlinear contribution to the ozone change is very small and not significant between 50 and 10 hPa, and even slightly negative at 5 hPa, but in the lower stratosphere 8 % of the overall annual mean ozone change are explained by nonlinear interactions.

By analysing the nonlinear contributions from different loss cycles (Fig. 3c,d), we find that at NH midlatitudes the nonlinear ozone increase is determined by a reduced ozone loss in the catalytic
280 chlorine loss cycle (orange) above 70 hPa. In the upper stratosphere this increase is slightly counteracted by an enhanced ozone loss in the Chapman cycle (purple). In the middle stratosphere nonlinear interactions modify the NO_x -catalysed O_3 loss, while in the lower stratosphere the HO_x and BrO_x -catalysed O_3 loss are affected. In contrast to the nonlinear effect on the ClO_x and Chapman cycles in the upper stratosphere, which varies only quantitatively but not qualitatively with latitude, the sign
285 of the nonlinear ozone change due to the NO_x cycle depends on the geographical region. In the NH the nonlinear ozone change related to the NO_x cycle is relatively small and not statistically significant. In the SH, however, ozone is significantly decreased by up to 2 % in the upper stratosphere at midlatitudes (Fig. 3d) and increased in the middle stratosphere in the polar region due to a nonlinearly modified NO_x -catalysed ozone loss (not shown). This causes the hemispheric asymmetries
290 in the nonlinear ozone change attributed to chemical loss in Fig. 2b. In the lower stratosphere the nonlinear ozone change due to HO_x is positive at all latitudes, but statistically significant increases occur only at high latitudes. In the annual mean the total nonlinear decrease of the chemical O_3 loss in the Antarctic lower stratosphere is caused by a reduced HO_x -, ClO_x - and BrO_x -catalysed O_3 loss (Fig. 3d).

295 Which nonlinear processes are affecting the ozone loss cycles? Since the loss rate of a specific reaction is determined by the (temperature dependant) rate coefficient and the concentration of the involved species, nonlinear effects can occur either because of nonlinear temperature changes or/and nonlinear changes of the radical and ozone abundances. We find that the nonlinearity in the ClO_x induced ozone loss is primarily caused by a reduced concentration of ClO_x radicals if ODSs and
300 GHGs are changed simultaneously, as compared to the sum of the single forcings (Fig. 4 a). In the upper stratosphere the ClO_x increase between 1960 and 2000 is about 300 %, while the changes due to ODSs ($\approx +350$ %) and GHGs (≈ -10 %) add up to $\approx +340$ % (not shown). This is explained by a nonlinear effect on the partitioning of inorganic chlorine, consistent with the study by *Nevison et al.* (1999). From 1960 to 2000 the ratio between reactive (ClO_x) and inorganic chlorine is reduced more
305 than expected from the single forcings. This is caused by the interaction between the chlorine species and the GHGs CH_4 and N_2O . While CO_2 is chemically quasi inert in the atmosphere and primarily influences the radiative budget of the system, CH_4 and NO_2 , a product species from N_2O , can react with chlorine compounds and form HCl and ClONO_2 , respectively, which are the most abundant chlorine reservoir species in the stratosphere. Thus, the formation of chlorine reservoir species is

310 enhanced if the GHG concentrations are increased simultaneously with the chlorine loading. This
is also valid for the BrO_x -catalysed O_3 loss in the lower stratosphere through the formation of
 BrONO_2 . In addition, nonlinear processes lead to a reduced abundance not only of chlorine radicals,
but also of the total amount of inorganic chlorine in the stratosphere (not shown). This is related to a
reduced conversion of the chlorine source gases to inorganic compounds in the tropical stratosphere.
315 Here, the reduced shortwave radiation reaching the lower stratosphere due to the O_3 increase above
lowers the photolysis rate of organic chlorine. Furthermore, circulation changes can play a role for
the chlorine release as discussed in *Waugh et al. (2007)*.

The positive nonlinear effect on ozone shown here is contrary to the findings in *Haigh and Pyle*
(1982), who found a larger ozone decrease for the combined change of ODSs and CO_2 . The main
320 difference to the study by *Haigh and Pyle (1982)* is that not only CO_2 concentrations are increased,
but also the CH_4 and N_2O abundances. This means that the nonlinear effect due to a reduced temper-
ature sensitivity of ozone is smaller than the nonlinearity that originates from changing atmospheric
abundances of CH_4 and N_2O and their interactions with chlorine species.

The rate limiting reaction of the Chapman loss cycle (O_3+O) exhibits a strong temperature de-
325 pendency resulting in reduced ozone loss if temperatures decrease and enhanced loss if temperatures
increase. The annual mean nonlinear temperature change between 1960 and 2000 (Fig. 5) is positive
and statistically significant in the tropical upper stratosphere and lower stratosphere at SH midlat-
itudes. Thus, the stratospheric cooling in the tropical upper stratosphere is weaker by up to 0.4 K
if ODSs and GHGs are changed simultaneously, with the consequence that the ozone loss via the
330 Chapman cycle is slightly increased. The temperature change pattern is linked to the nonlinear
ozone increase due to the ClO_x cycle and the concomitant increase in ozone heating rates, but it is
modulated by dynamical processes, especially in the polar regions. The warming in the SH polar
upper stratosphere is related to a dynamically induced adiabatic descent that is probably caused by
the cooling in the lower stratosphere. The cooling can partly be explained by \clubsuit reduced downwelling
335 (see Section 3.2.2 and Fig. 8d).

The hemispheric asymmetry in the nonlinear ozone change in the lower and middle stratosphere
is attributed to a larger nonlinear effect on the NO_x loss cycle in the SH that leads to a compensation
of the ClO_x induced ozone increase at SH midlatitudes and to a larger nonlinear ozone increase in
the polar region. This is mainly caused by processes in the SH spring season and will be discussed
340 in section 3.2.2.

The significant nonlinear annual mean ozone increase due to chemical loss in the lowermost strato-
sphere at SH high latitudes (Fig. 2b) is mainly caused by a reduced efficiency of HO_x -catalysed O_3
loss (see Fig. 3d for 60°S). At this altitude, the HO_x cycle is primarily determined by the reaction
of OH with O_3 . Although the absolute abundance of HO_x is increased due to nonlinear processes,
345 the partitioning between OH and HO_2 is shifted in favour of HO_2 in this region (not shown). Thus,
the loss efficiency is reduced.

In addition to chemical ozone loss, chemical ozone production contributes to the nonlinear ozone signal. Figure 2c shows that ozone production is reduced if interactions between increasing GHGs and ODSs occur. It is mainly caused by a decrease of the photolysis rate due to the ozone increase in the levels above (i.e. a reversed self-healing effect). The nonlinear ozone increase attributed to production changes in the NH upper troposphere, however, is found to be due to increased production via the reaction path HO_2+NO (not shown).

The processes that are responsible for the nonlinear change in the ozone transport are analysed in more detail from the seasonal point of view in the next section. To investigate the seasonality of the nonlinear ozone changes, the attribution method is applied to seasonal means as discussed in section 2. The largest nonlinear contributions are found in the September to November (SON) season. Therefore we focus on the SON mean in the following analyses.

3.2.2 Southern Hemisphere Spring (SON)

Figure 6 shows the nonlinear ozone change between 1960 and 2000 for the SH spring season (SON) and the attributions to chemical ozone loss, production and transport analogous to Fig. 2. Figure 6a shows that the nonlinear ozone increase in the extra-polar upper stratosphere that was found for the annual mean is a robust signal in austral spring (and in fact all seasons, not shown). In the lower stratosphere, however, the nonlinear ozone change in the SON mean exhibits a clear dipole pattern in the SH, with a positive signal at midlatitudes and a negative signal in the polar region. Furthermore, a statistically significant ozone increase due to nonlinear interactions is found in the NH polar lower stratosphere.

The nonlinear ozone changes due to loss in the SON mean (Fig. 6b) are qualitatively similar to the annual mean, but in the SH polar region the changes are more pronounced. The nonlinear contribution is positive in the upper and lower extra-polar stratosphere, as in the annual mean, but an ozone decrease is attributed to nonlinear processes at SH midlatitudes in the middle stratosphere and in the polar region in the upper stratosphere and lower mesosphere. This decrease is caused by significantly enhanced ozone loss through the NO_x cycle – by more than 2 % (Fig. 7b) – which slightly exceeds the ozone increase due to reduced ClO_x -catalysed O_3 loss (Fig. 7a; [see Sec. 3.2.1 for more details to the \$\text{ClO}_x\$ -catalysed \$\text{O}_3\$ loss change](#)). In the SH polar region, however, the nonlinear NO_x -catalysed O_3 loss is decreased and thus ozone is increased in the middle stratosphere between 50 and 5 hPa (Fig. 7b). In the NH, no comparable nonlinear change pattern is found in the spring season (March to May; not shown).

The nonlinearity in NO_x -catalysed O_3 loss originates from a nonlinear change of the NO_x mixing ratios in the atmosphere: it is positive at SH midlatitudes and negative in the polar region (Fig. 4b). To understand this nonlinear behavior, we first explain the effect of the single forcings, since the NO_x mixing ratios are affected by both increasing GHGs and ODSs. [In the stratosphere \$\text{N}_2\text{O}\$ is destroyed either by photolysis or by the reaction with an excited oxygen atom \$\text{O}^1\text{D}\$. However, only](#)

the latter reaction path produces NO_x . Increasing halogen loading leads to a reduction of stratospheric NO_x above the 50 hPa level by diminishing the overhead ozone column und thus increasing the photolysis rate of N_2O ~~and hence reducing the NO_x production, and by increasing the formation of reservoir species (not shown), which mitigates the NO_x production. Furthermore, an enhanced formation of reservoir species (ClONO_2 , BrONO_2) may also contribute to the NO_x reduction (not shown).~~ In contrast, increasing GHG concentrations cause a significantly larger abundance of nitrogen radicals in the extra-polar stratosphere (not shown) which is linked to increased N_2O input into the stratosphere. In the upper stratosphere and mesosphere GHG induced stratospheric cooling increases the NO_y loss reaction rate (*Rosenfield and Douglass, 1998*) and therefore causes a NO_x decrease. The combined NO_x change is dominated by the positive GHG effect in the tropical middle stratosphere and by the negative ODS effect in the polar regions and lower stratosphere. In the upper stratosphere and lower mesosphere the total NO_x change between 1960 and 2000 is negative.

This means that in the SH, the combined change of ODSs and GHGs leads to a larger NO_x decrease in the polar region than expected from the sum of the single forcings (shown in Fig. 4b). At midlatitudes, the NO_x decrease is mitigated by nonlinear processes. Since this pattern dominates also the annual mean change (not shown), seasonally asymmetric processes must be involved. In the lower stratosphere the distribution of NO_x is determined by the release from reservoir species which are produced from N_2O and transported via the residual circulation. Thus, nonlinear NO_x changes in the lower stratosphere can be caused by changes in the NO_y production, in the circulation, and/or in the NO_x/NO_y ratio. In the upper stratosphere the dominant form of odd nitrogen is NO_x . Due to the chemical loss through the reaction $\text{NO}+\text{N}$ in the upper stratosphere and mesosphere, a maximum mixing ratio of NO_x occurs at 3 hPa. Thus, air masses that are transported downward from the mesosphere are characterized by lower NO_x values.

In the lower stratosphere we find qualitatively the same nonlinear change pattern for NO_y as for NO_x , with only slightly masked absolute values due to a modified partitioning of radicals and reservoir species. Since the release from N_2O shows no significant nonlinear change in the tropics (not shown), a possible explanation for the nonlinear NO_y change is an effect of transport. In the upper stratosphere the larger ozone abundance due to nonlinear processes can reduce the photolysis of NO which reduces the efficiency of the NO_x loss reaction (*Rosenfield and Douglass, 1998*). Furthermore, the reduced cooling in the tropical upper stratosphere (Fig. 5) tends to decrease the loss. This leads to an increase of NO_x . However, the dipole pattern cannot be explained by these processes. Therefore, transport changes must be involved. The circulation changes due to nonlinear processes are discussed later in more detail.

The significant ozone decrease attributed to chemical loss in the SH polar upper stratosphere in the SON mean (Fig. 6b) is caused by increased O_3 loss in the Chapman and the HO_x cycle, which together exceed the effect of the ClO_x decrease (not shown). The enhanced O_3 loss in the Chapman cycle is explained by nonlinear warming (see Fig. 5 since the SON nonlinear temperature change is

420 comparable to the annual mean), while the increased O_3 loss due to HO_x is related to a nonlinear increase of the HO_x mixing ratio in the upper stratosphere (not shown).

While the ClO_x -catalysed O_3 loss is significantly reduced at all latitudes and all seasons in the upper stratosphere due to nonlinear processes, a significant nonlinear ozone decrease occurs in the SH polar region between 20 and 5 hPa in the SON mean (Fig. 7a). This is not explained by a
425 nonlinear change of the ClO_x mixing ratio, but is probably related to the reduced ozone loss in the NO_x cycle that leads to more O_x available for the catalytic ClO_x cycle. However, the overall nonlinear ozone change attributed to loss in this region is dominated by the ozone increase due to NO_x .

The nonlinear ozone change attributed to chemical production (Fig. 6c) depends on the season-
430 ality of the incoming solar radiation and is therefore slightly different from the annual mean. The contribution to the nonlinear ozone change, however, remains negative.

All in all, we find that ozone chemistry is affected by nonlinear changes, but it cannot fully explain the nonlinear ozone changes, in particular the ozone decrease in the Antarctic lower stratosphere in spring. Figure 6d shows the nonlinear ozone change due to ozone transport in the Antarctic spring
435 season. The pattern is qualitatively similar to that for the annual mean (Fig. 2d) which indicates that the effect of nonlinear interactions on ozone transport is largest in the SH spring season. We find a strong dipole signal in each hemisphere: in the SH a significant decrease in ozone due to transport in the polar stratosphere and an increase in the tropics and midlatitudes, and vice versa in the NH. Hence, the nonlinear ozone change pattern in the SH is primarily determined by the
440 nonlinear changes in the ozone transport.

To understand why this dynamically driven nonlinearity is generated, we analyse the changes in the residual mean mass streamfunction (Ψ). Figure 8a shows the change in the mass streamfunction between 1960 and 2000 for the SON mean. The contributions from GHGs, ODSs and the nonlinear term are illustrated in the panels 8b-d, respectively. The absolute field of the streamfunction is
445 positive for clockwise transport from the equator to [the](#) north pole. The zero- Ψ -line of the 1960 reference simulation is shown in green.

The residual mean circulation is strengthened throughout the stratosphere in the NH between 1960 and 2000 in the SON mean. In the SH the circulation is enhanced in the upper stratosphere and weakened in the lower stratosphere. This is consistent with the results by *Li et al.* (2008) who
450 analysed simulations with a CCM and reported a weakening of the downward motion in the Antarctic lower stratosphere in SON for the 1960 to 2004 period and an enhancement of the downwelling in the upper stratosphere.

The change in the SH and NH upper stratosphere in the EMAC simulations can be explained by the ~~ODS and GHG~~ [GHG and ODS](#) forcings, respectively (Fig. 8b,c), but the weakening in the SH lower
455 stratosphere occurs only if ODSs and GHGs are changed simultaneously. This result shows that in ~~contrast~~ [contrast](#) to the findings by *McLandress et al.* (2010), we detect a small, but significant

nonlinear response in our timeslice simulations. [This is potentially related to the different approach \(timeslice vs. transient simulations\) used in our study compared to *McLandress et al. \(2010\)* and also to the fact that the chemical effect of increasing CH₄ and N₂O is solely included in our 'GHG only' and not in our 'ODS only' simulation as it is in the study by *McLandress et al. \(2010\)*. Thus in our study, nonlinear effects on the dynamics arising from nonlinear ozone changes are more likely to be detected.](#)

Due to increasing GHG concentrations, the residual circulation is enhanced in the NH upper stratosphere and in the lower stratosphere at low latitudes, as well as in the SH lower stratosphere (Fig. 8b). A reduced wave dissipation in the upper troposphere (seen in the reduced Eliassen-Palm flux (EPF) convergence; supplementary Figure 1b) leads to enhanced wave propagation into the lower stratosphere at midlatitudes in both hemispheres. In the SH the wave dissipation is enhanced between 100 and 10 hPa leading to a strengthening of the circulation, particularly in the lower stratosphere, but for the NH midlatitudes, the atmospheric structure favours wave propagation (indicated by the change in the refractive properties ([Li et al., 2007](#)); see supplementary Fig. S2b) into the upper stratosphere, where the waves dissipate and drive the change of the mean mass streamfunction in the upper part (suppl. Fig. 1b and Fig. 8b).

In contrast, ODS increase leads to an enhancement of the mass transport in the SH and a reduction in the NH (Fig. 8c), which is also reported by *Rind et al. (2009)*. In the SH the source region of wave energy (EPF divergence) in the UTLS between 30°S and 60°S is shifted poleward and intensified (see supplementary Fig. 1c). This is probably related to a slight poleward shift of the SH subtropical jet, which is caused by the cooling trend in the Antarctic lower stratosphere and an increase of the latitudinal temperature gradient. The shift of the SH subtropical jet is a known feature in summer months (e.g. *Wilcox et al., 2012*), but it already starts to develop in SON in the timeslice simulations. In addition, wave dissipation is reduced in the lower stratosphere at midlatitudes, i.e. the atmosphere is more permeable, which leads to increased EPF convergence in the middle and upper SH stratosphere (see supplementary Figure 2c and 1c, respectively) and to a strengthening of the SH residual circulation (Fig. 8c). The improved conditions for wave propagation are linked to the positive change of the zonal mean zonal wind (see supplementary Figure 3c), that goes along with a later breakdown of the polar vortex (not shown). The NH weakening is explained by *Rind et al. (2009)*, with an extension of the SH circulation change into the NH leading to reduced downwelling at high NH latitudes.

Finally, nonlinear changes occur, for example, if changes in the atmospheric conditions due to ODSs favour or mitigate the propagation of waves, which in turn are caused by increasing GHGs. In our simulations we find that the ~~strengthening~~ [strengthening](#) of the residual circulation in the SH lower stratosphere, which arises from both GHG and ODS changes, is weaker for the combined forcing (Fig. 8d). Here, different processes play a role. On the one hand, the wave activity from below is decreased due to less reduced (= increased) wave dissipation in the troposphere. This is

495 linked to a weaker increase of the zonal wind around 60°S (see supplementary Figure 1 and 3), which
is associated with a weaker meridional temperature gradient in the UTLS and a reduced poleward
shift of the SH subtropical jet (compared to the sum of the single forcings). This shift also induces
a weakening of the EPF divergence in the lowermost stratosphere (see supplementary Fig. 1d and
3d). On the other hand, the middle stratosphere is more permeable for waves (see supplementary
Figure 1d and 2d), which is related to the greater persistence of the polar vortex in SH spring for the
500 combined forcings compared to the sum of the single forcings (not shown), meaning a longer period
of westerly winds in spring (see supplementary Figure 3d). Thus, while wave dissipation is reduced
in the middle stratosphere, it is enhanced in the upper stratosphere, driving the positive circulation
change there (Fig. 8d).

In the NH the weakening of the residual circulation which is caused by ODSs and, in the polar
505 lower stratosphere, by GHGs, is compensated by nonlinear interactions. The wave dissipation in the
troposphere is decreased at midlatitudes allowing more waves to propagate into the stratosphere. As
a consequence the wave dissipation in the middle and upper stratosphere is increased, driving the
positive change of the residual circulation (supplementary Fig. 1d and Fig 8).

This nonlinear behavior of the mass streamfunction is consistent with the changes of the ozone
510 transport, since reduced transport from the tropics to the polar regions causes ozone increase at
midlatitudes and decrease at high latitudes. On the other hand, a strengthening of the mass stream-
function in the NH lower stratosphere occurs, which causes an increased transport of ozone to the
higher latitudes. Moreover, the changes of the residual circulation provide a possible explanation for
the nonlinear NO_x change pattern in the lower stratosphere (Fig. 4b). A slower mass transport from
515 the tropics to the mid- and high latitudes goes along with a longer transport time, which means that
more time is available for the chemical conversion of N_2O . The reduced NO_x values south of 70°S
are probably linked to the transport barrier at the edge of the polar vortex, which is more persistent if
ODSs and GHGs are increased simultaneously (not shown). In the upper stratosphere, the increased
downward motion transports air with low NO_x to the polar region and explains the NO_x decrease.

520 4 Conclusions

In this study we have performed an attribution of ozone changes between 1960 and 2000 to increas-
ing GHGs and ODSs, explicitly accounting for nonlinearities. A set of idealized simulations with the
CCM EMAC allows us to detect nonlinear contributions to changes and to analyse the underlying
processes. In contrast to attribution studies using the stratospheric halogen loading as explanatory
525 variable, this method includes all preceding processes like transport and chemical conversion of the
halogen source gases. GHG induced changes in the processing of ODSs and the resulting ozone
changes are therefore not attributed to ODS changes, but to the nonlinear interaction term. Fur-
thermore, by attributing the ozone changes to increasing mixing ratios of well-mixed GHGs, both

temperature and chemical modifications are considered, as opposed to only temperature or CO₂ changes. Thus, ODS induced changes in the abundance of HO_x and NO_x and the resulting ozone changes are attributed to nonlinear processes.

We identified a positive nonlinear contribution to the annual mean global mean ozone change throughout the stratosphere. The largest nonlinear change of 1.2 % occurs in the upper stratosphere, where it is half as large as the GHG induced ozone change. This signal is robust in the extra-polar region in all seasons. The main processes that we found driving the nonlinear ozone changes are summarised in the schematic overview in Fig. 9. In the extra-polar upper stratosphere, the nonlinear ozone increase is mainly attributed to nonlinearities in chemical ozone loss. We showed that reduced ozone loss is mainly caused by nonlinear processes affecting the ClO_x loss cycle. Interactions between the chlorine species and CH₄ or N₂O products lead to an enhanced formation of chlorine reservoir species, which decrease chemical ozone loss and increase ozone abundance by up to 2.5 %. This is consistent with the results of *Nevison et al.* (1999). The ClO_x effect is counteracted by more effective ozone loss via the Chapman cycle, which means that the temperature induced decrease of the Chapman loss reaction rate is smaller if GHGs and ODSs are changed at the same time. This is consistent with the findings of *Haigh and Pyle* (1982), who showed that the sensitivity of ozone to temperature changes decreases with increasing chlorine loading. In the middle stratosphere, nonlinear ozone change due to the NO_x cycle is slightly positive at NH midlatitudes, but larger and negative at SH midlatitudes, which leads to hemispheric asymmetries in the nonlinear ozone loss signal.

Besides the significant nonlinear ozone change in the extra-tropical upper stratosphere, a second region with significant nonlinear annual mean changes is identified in the lower stratosphere SH midlatitudes. Here, reduced ClO_x-catalysed ozone loss together with positive changes in ozone transport are found to be the main drivers of a nonlinear ozone increase. A nonlinear contribution is also found in ozone production, which is significantly reduced globally except for the lower polar stratosphere. The reduced production is related to a reduced photolysis rate of molecular oxygen, which is the consequence of the ozone increase above.

In the SH in spring (SON), a pronounced dipole pattern in the nonlinear ozone change is evident below 10 hPa, with ozone decrease in the polar region and increase at midlatitudes. This is mainly attributed to nonlinear processes affecting ozone transport, but also modulated by nonlinear changes in the ozone chemistry. Due to a nonlinearly weakened meridional mass transport from the tropics and midlatitudes to the SH polar region, less ozone is transported to the high latitudes in the lower stratosphere. In the NH, however, nonlinear interactions lead to an enhanced mass transport and hence to a positive ozone change attributed to transport in the high latitudes and a negative ozone change at midlatitudes. Here, the reduced ozone loss in the ClO_x cycle balances the negative signal at midlatitudes and enhances the positive signal at high latitudes. In contrast, at SH midlatitudes the nonlinearly enhanced ozone loss in the NO_x cycle exceeds the positive signal from the ClO_x

cycle in the middle stratosphere. No enhancement of the heterogeneous ozone loss due to nonlinear processes is detected in the ozone hole area in spring, but rather a (not significant) mitigation of the chemical ozone depletion.

The integrated effect of the nonlinear processes is evident in the change of the total ozone column.

570 The ODS induced decrease is significantly mitigated in the extra-polar regions by up to 1.1 % in the annual mean.

All in all, we showed that in simulations with the CCM EMAC, simultaneously increased GHG and ODS concentrations leads to nonlinear interactions affecting both ozone chemistry and ozone transport between 1960 and 2000. The nonlinear effect on ozone is small compared to the ODS
575 effect, but for the recent past it is about half as large as the GHG effect. It has to be noted that these results are based on a single model study. *Douglass et al. (2012)* showed that differences in the balance of loss processes between different CCMs leads to different sensitivity of ozone to temperature and chlorine changes in the upper stratosphere. Analyses of the nonlinear processes with different models are thus needed to confirm the conclusions shown here.

580 For attribution studies with multiple linear regression analysis, however, one has to be aware of the fact that the basis functions may already be modified by nonlinear interactions. Therefore some processes are not included in the attribution. The appearance of nonlinearities means that the effect of ODS emission changes is to a small percentage dependant on the prevailing GHG concentrations. Thus the future evolution of stratospheric ozone due to the decline of ODSs will not simply be a
585 reversal of the past.

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Table 1. Boundary conditions for the four timeslice simulations indicated by the year of the input timeseries.

	R1960	R2000	GHG2000	ODS2000
GHGs	1960	2000	2000	1960
SSTs/SICs	1955-1964 mean	1995-2004 mean	1995-2004 mean	1955-1964 mean
ODSs	1960	2000	1960	2000
Ozone precursors	1960	2000	2000	1960

- 710 Wilcox, L. J., A. J. Charlton-Perez, L. J. Gray (2012), Trends in Austral jet position in ensembles of high- and low-top CMIP5 models, *J. Geophys. Res.: Atmospheres*, 117, D13115, doi:10.1029/2012JD017597.
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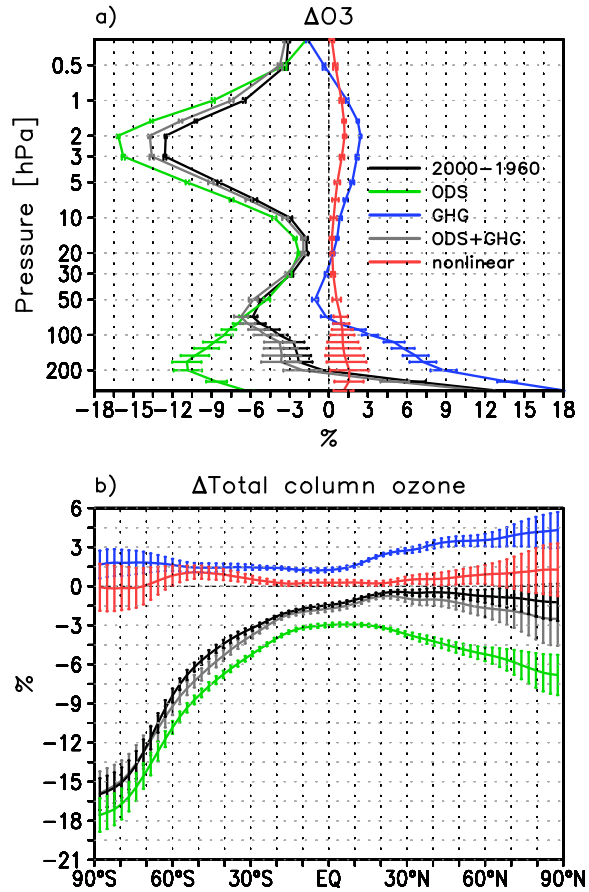


Fig. 1. **Top:** a) Vertical profile of the annual mean global mean change in ozone mixing ratio (in %) between 1960 and 2000 (black) and the contributions from GHGs (blue) and ODSs (green) and the nonlinear term (red). The sum of the single forcings (GHG+ODS) is shown in grey. The bars denote the 95 % confidence level of the changes. **Bottom:** b) Same as the top panel a), but for the latitude dependant annual mean change in total column ozone (in %) between 1960 and 2000.

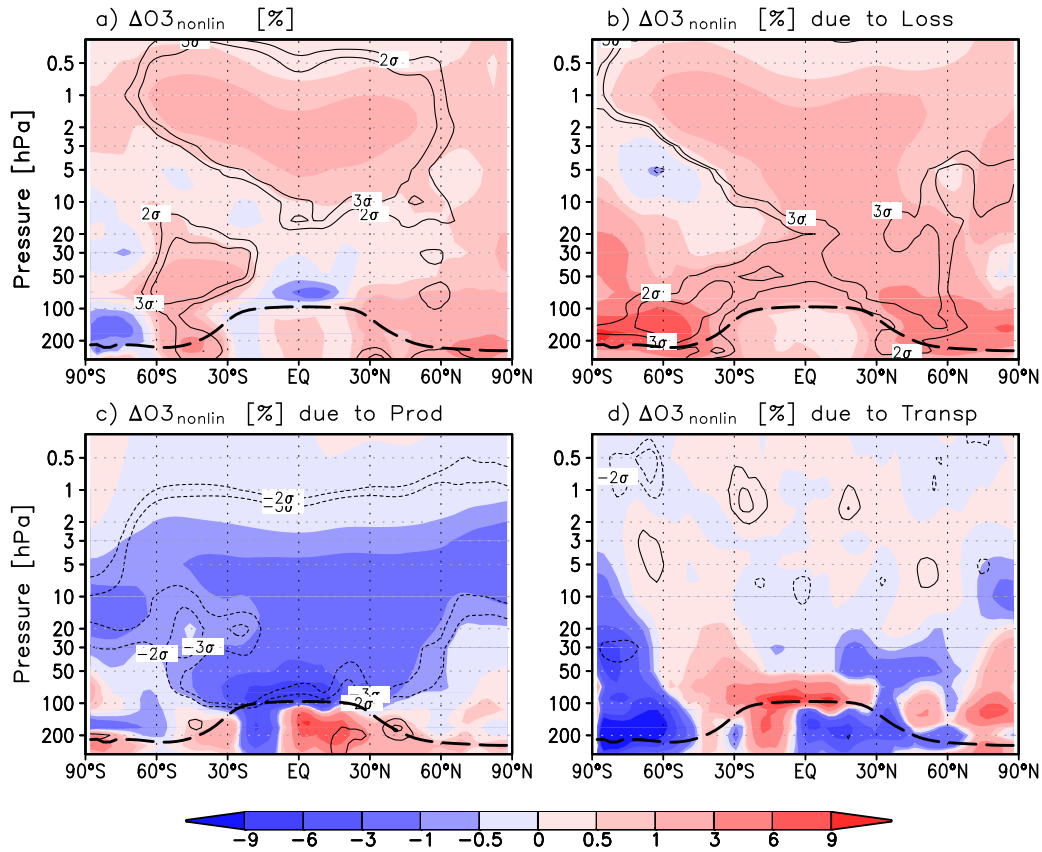


Fig. 2. Latitude-height section of the nonlinear contribution to the annual mean ozone change (a) between 1960 and 2000 in % and the separation into the contributions from ozone loss (b), ozone production (c) and ozone transport (d). Red/blue shading indicates positive/negative changes. The contour lines indicate the regions where the changes are larger than $\pm 2\sigma$ and $\pm 3\sigma$. The bold dashed line shows the mean tropopause location of the *R1960* simulation for the annual mean. Note that the contributions from chemistry (b+c) and transport (d) do not exactly add up to the total (a) because of the residual term.

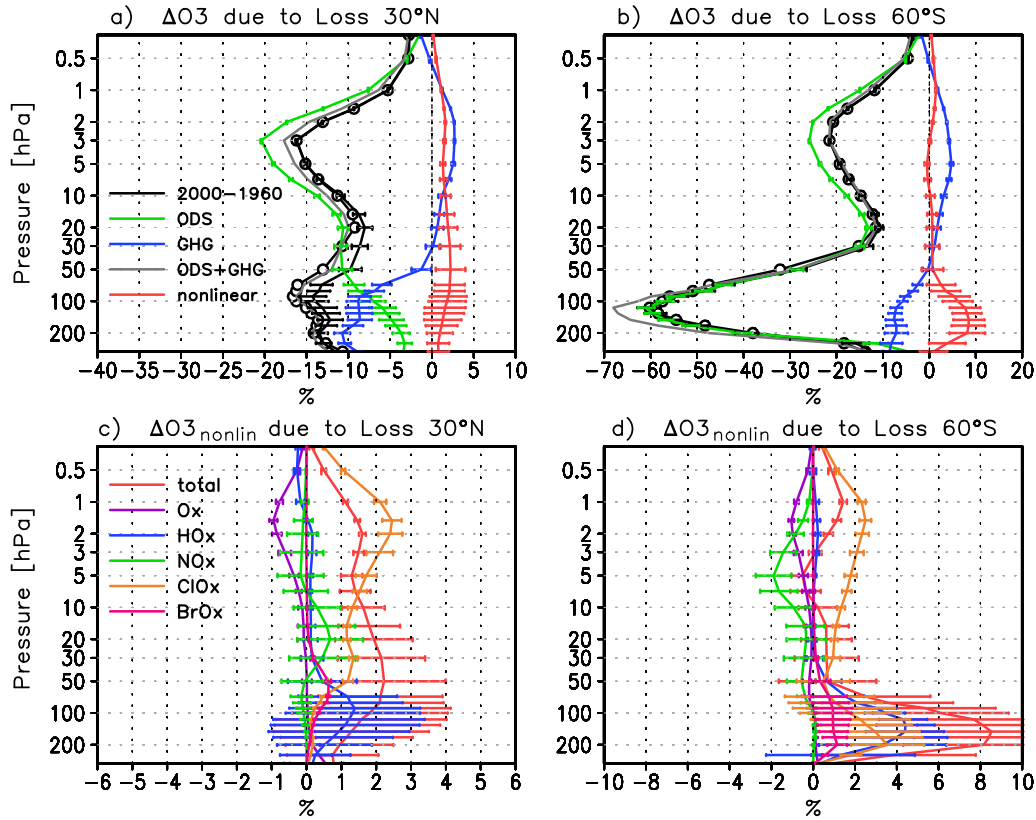


Fig. 3. Top: Vertical profile of the relative ozone change due to chemical ozone destruction (black) and its attribution to GHGs (blue), ODSs (green) and nonlinear interactions (red) for the annual mean at 30°N (a) and at 60°S (b). The results based on the calculation with the tool *StratO3Bud* are shown as solid lines. For comparison the result of the total change calculated accordingly to Fig. 2b is shown as black line with circles. Bottom: Vertical profile of the nonlinear contribution to the loss induced ozone change (red; see top panel) and the separation into the contributions from the different ozone loss cycles, i.e. the O_x (purple), HO_x (blue), NO_x (green), ClO_x (orange) and BrO_x (magenta) loss cycles for the annual mean at 30°N (c) and at 60°S (d). The bars denote the 95 % confidence level of the changes. The contributions from the single loss cycles add up to the total loss change. Note the different scales of the subfigures.

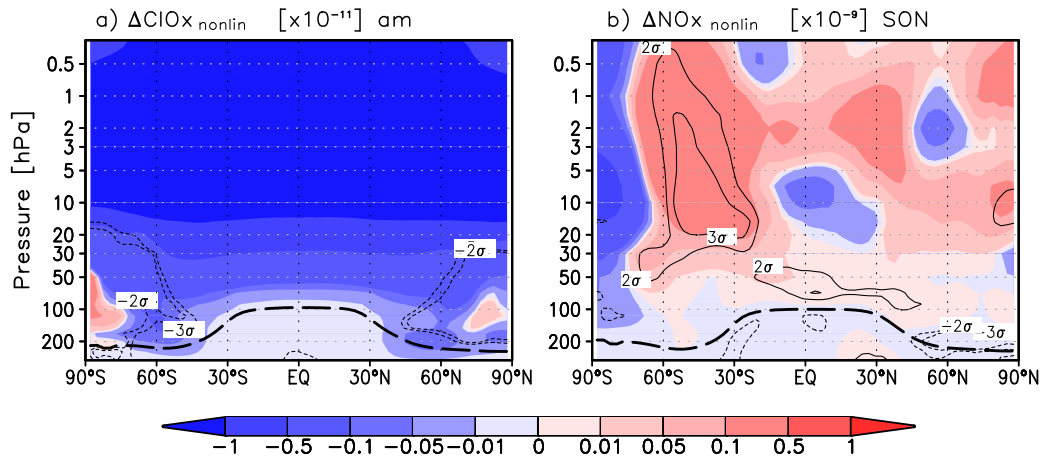


Fig. 4. Latitude-height section of the nonlinear change of the annual mean ClO_x mixing ratio (a) and the September to November mean NO_x mixing ratio (b) between 1960 and 2000. The contour lines indicate the regions where the changes are larger than $\pm 2\sigma$ and $\pm 3\sigma$. The bold dashed line shows the mean tropopause location of the *R1960* simulation for the annual mean and the SON mean, respectively.

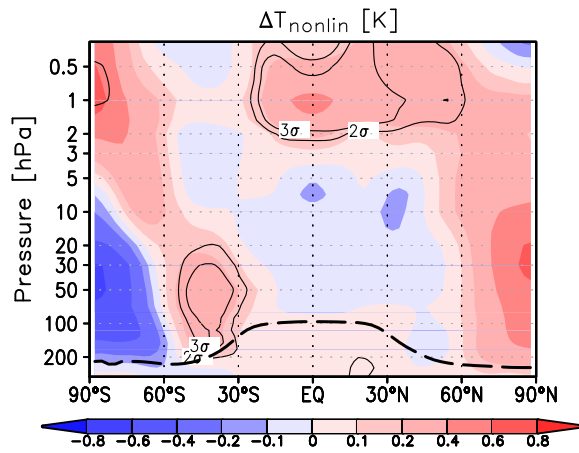


Fig. 5. Same as Fig. 2a, but for the nonlinear annual mean temperature change [K] between 1960 and 2000. The contour lines indicate the regions where the changes are larger than $\pm 2\sigma$ and $\pm 3\sigma$.

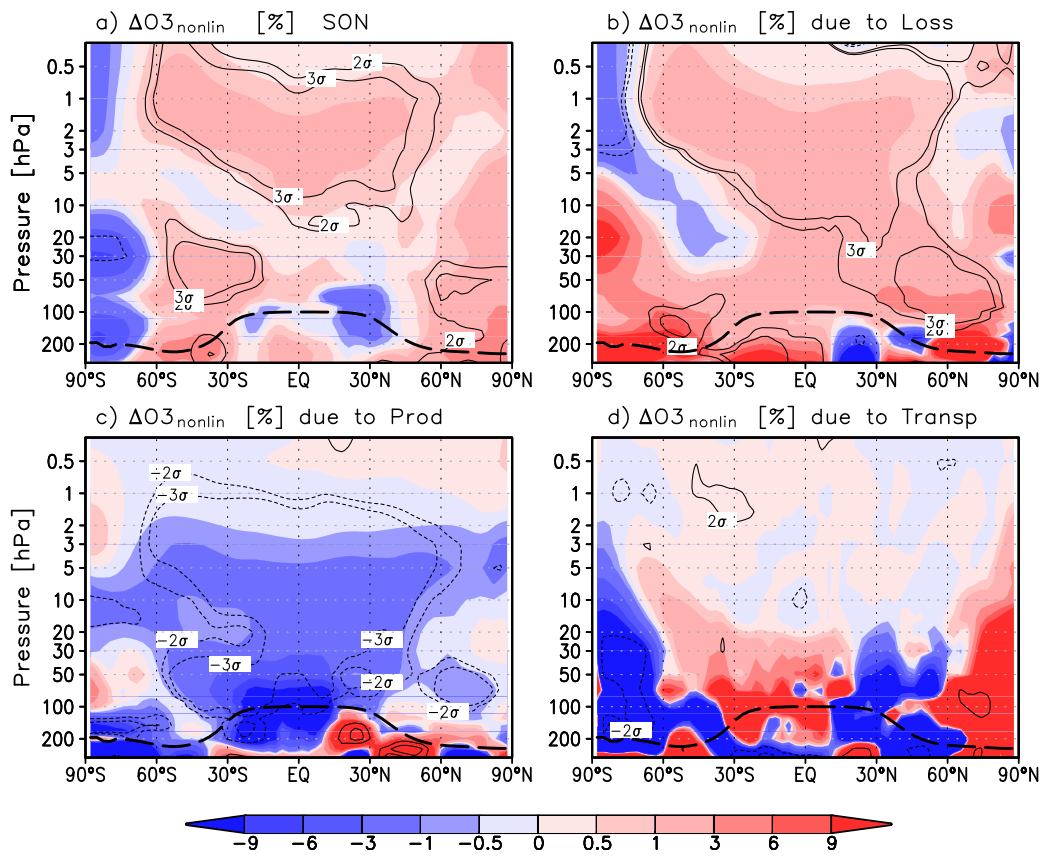


Fig. 6. Same as Fig. 2, but for the SON (September, October, November) mean. See text for details.

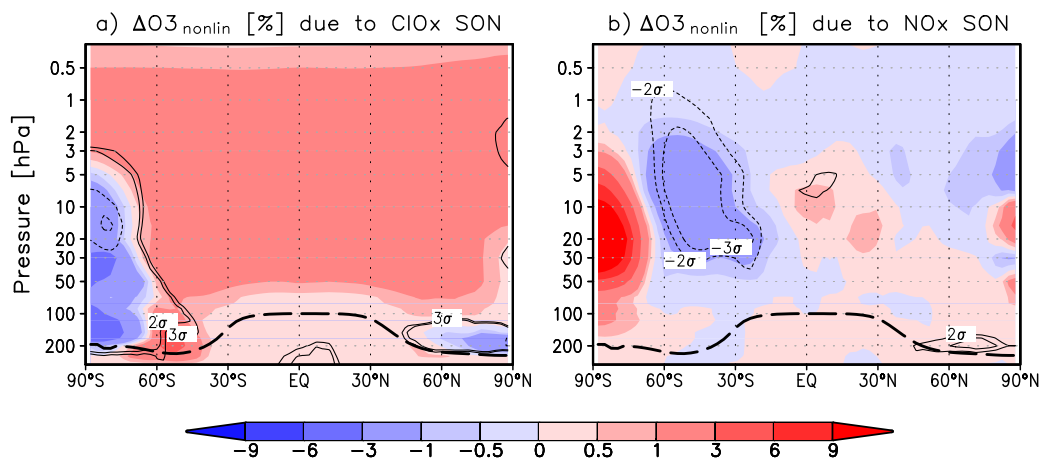


Fig. 7. Latitude-height section of the SON mean nonlinear O_3 changes due to the ClO_x (a) and the NO_x cycle (b) derived from *StratO3Bud*.

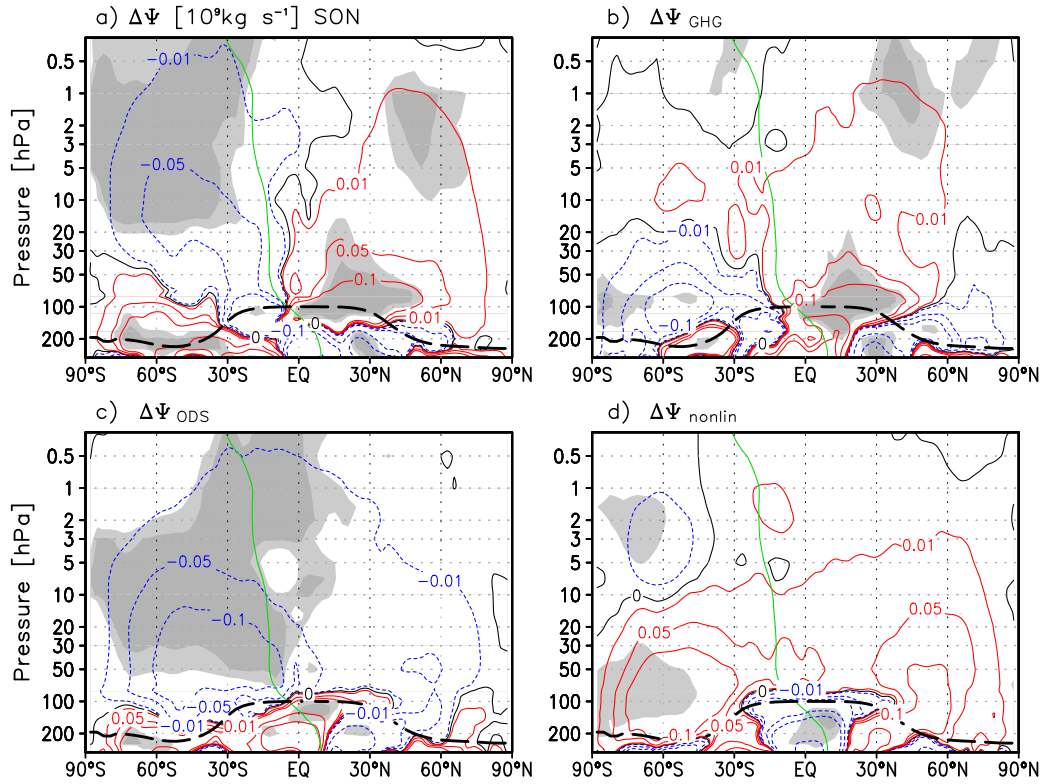


Fig. 8. Latitude-height section of the changes in the residual mean mass streamfunction (Ψ) in 10^9 kg s^{-1} between 1960 and 2000 for the SON mean (a) and the changes due to GHGs (b) and ODSs (c) as well as the nonlinear contribution (d). The light/dark grey shading indicates statistically significant changes on the 95 %/99 % confidence level, respectively. The green contour line shows the zero-line of the absolute residual mean mass streamfunction of the 1960 reference simulation (*R1960*).

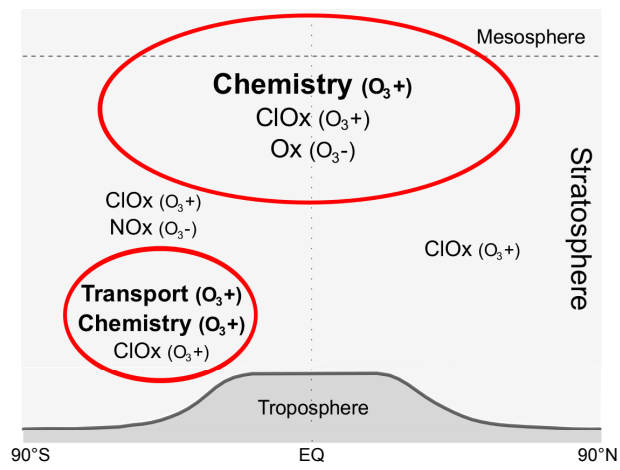


Fig. 9. Schematic figure of the annual mean nonlinear ozone change between 1960 and 2000 and the main processes we have identified. (O₃+)/(O₃-) means positive/negative change of ozone due to the indicated process.

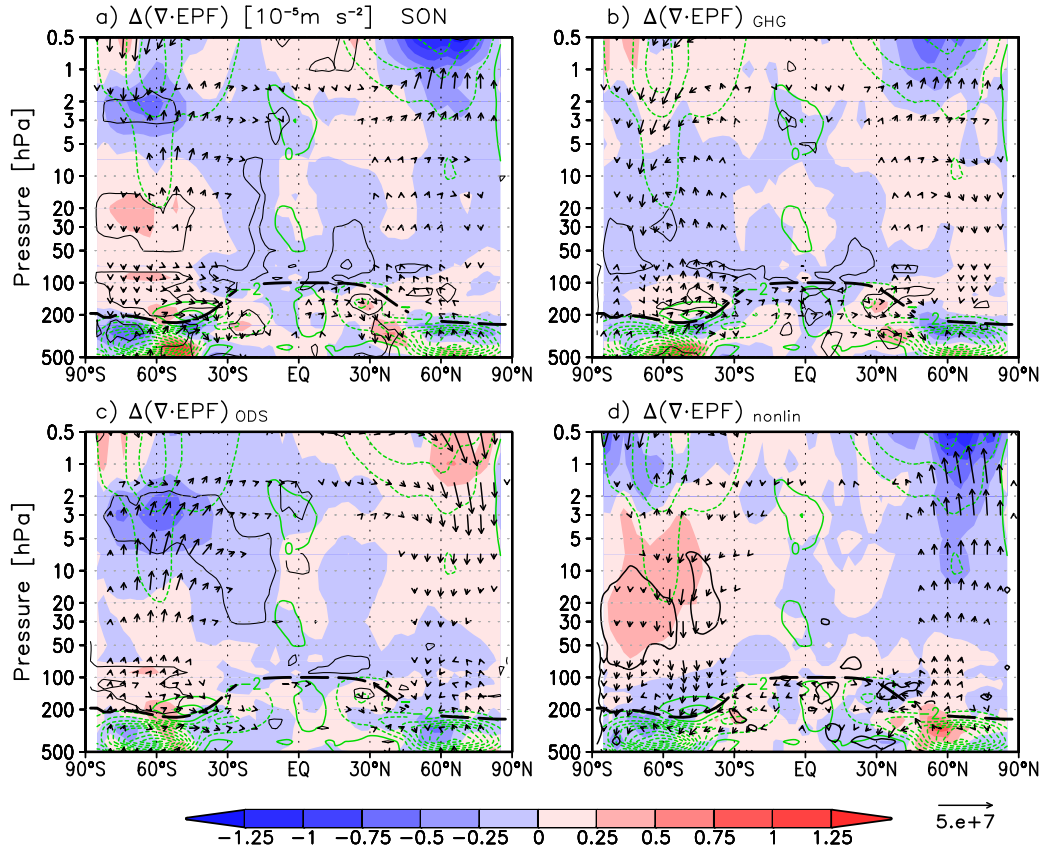


Fig. S1. Latitude-height section of the changes of the Eliassen-Palm flux vectors (in kg s^{-2}) and the Eliassen-Palm flux (EPF) divergence (in 10^{-5}m s^{-2}) between 1960 and 2000 for the SON mean (a) and the changes due to GHGs (b) and ODSs (c) as well as the nonlinear contribution (d). Black arrows show the change of the EPF vectors; red/blue shading means positive/negative changes of the EPF divergence. The black contour lines indicate statistically significant changes of the EPF divergence on the 95% confidence level. The green contour lines show the climatology of the EPF divergence for the 1960 reference simulation (R1960). Here, the nomenclature is as follows: A negative EPF divergence is named convergence, while a positive EPF divergence is named divergence. The bold dashed line represents the mean tropopause location of the R1960 simulation for the SON mean.

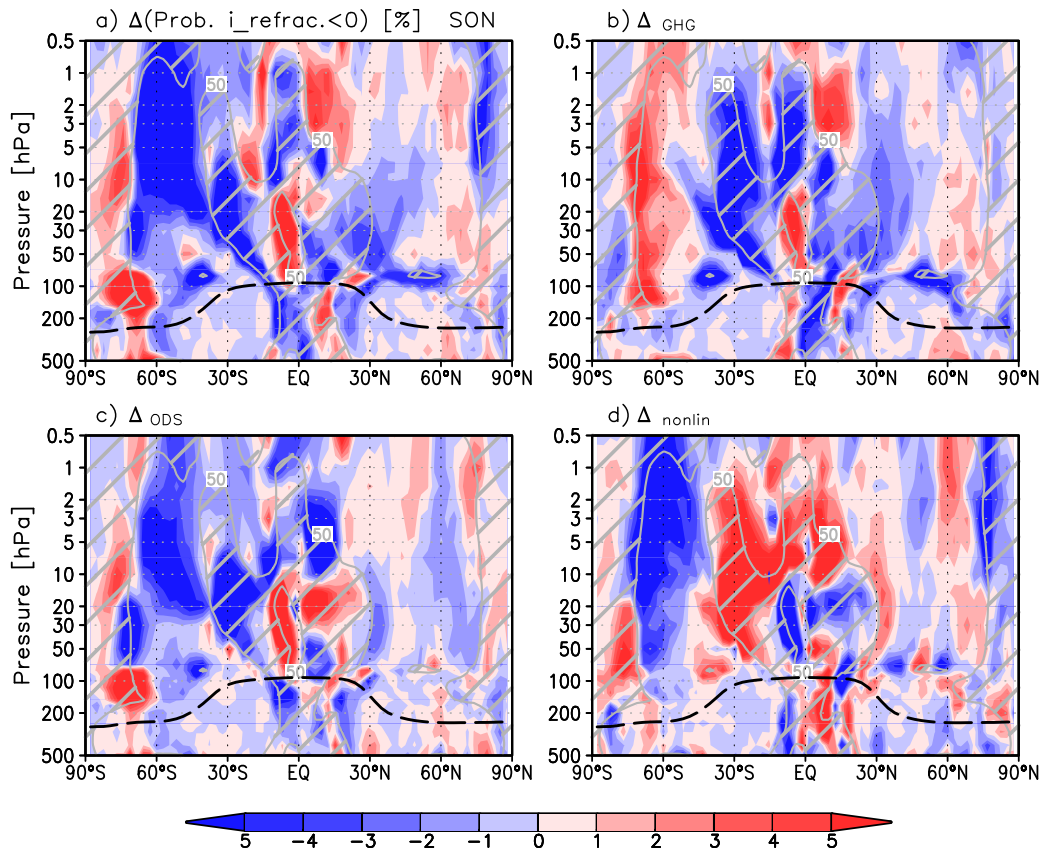


Fig. S2. Same as Figure S1, but for the change in the probability of a negative refractive index. The green contour line shows the 50% probability of a negative refractive index in the R1960 simulation for the SON mean. Gray hatching denotes the region where the probability of a negative refractive index is equal or greater than 50% in the R1960 simulation for the SON mean. A negative refractive index means that stationary planetary waves can not propagate and thus a reduced/increased probability of a negative index means that the atmosphere is more/less permeable for waves.

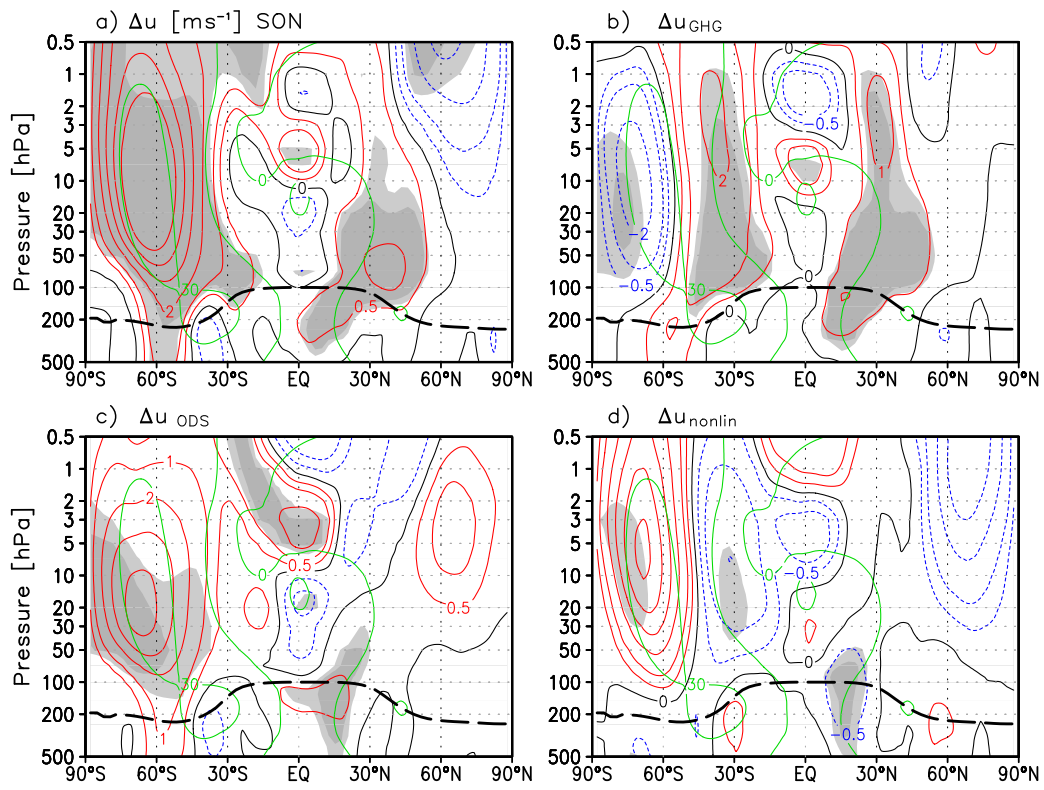


Fig. S3. Same as Figure S1, but for the change in the zonal mean zonal wind in m s^{-1} . The light/dark grey shading indicates statistically significant changes on the 95%/99% confidence level, respectively. The green contour lines (contours 0 and 30 m s^{-1}) show the climatology of the R1960 simulation for the SON mean.