

Interactive comment on “Uncertainties and assessments of chemistry-climate models of the stratosphere” by J. Austin et al.

B. Knudsen

bk@dmi.dk

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This paper presents a very important and good investigation of the possible future development of the ozone layer. The minimum ozone is used as a yardstick for the development. However, the minimum ozone in the Arctic is often caused by high-pressure systems and not ozone depletion. The March trend 1979–1999 in the 63–90N averaged ozone is much larger and more significant (-32 ± 20 DU/decade, 2 sigma) than the March/April minimum ozone (-21 ± 16 DU/decade according to Table 3). In the period 1979–2000 the trend is even more significant (-32 ± 18 DU/decade). Maybe the 63–90N average ozone would be a better yardstick? In the mid-latitudes the averaged ozone might also be a better yardstick, than the minimum ozone, which does not at all show a significant trend in the NH.

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