

Interactive comment on “Extrapolating future Arctic ozone losses” by B. M. Knudsen et al.

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We agree with most points made in the comment by Giovanni Pitari, but not his conclusions. However, the effect of the future changes in the ozone and water vapour trends have been discussed in the paper, even though the future trend in water vapour is not known. With our relationship, we know that all relevant processes are included, and included correctly even if we do not understand how they link. The validity of our approach rests on the assumption that these links do not change, i.e. that non-linearities are second order effects. We think it is currently impossible to decide whether the errors we make by extrapolating past data is larger than the errors in the CCM predictions. Pitari writes that our extrapolations probably are more inaccurate than CCM predictions. We just ask that our extrapolations be given the benefit of doubt. Particularly because the CCM predictions were given the benefit of doubt and are now used to decide which measures to take against ozone depletion.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 4, 3227, 2004.

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