

**CO<sub>2</sub> inhibition of  
isoprene emission  
and future ozone**

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# The CO<sub>2</sub> inhibition of terrestrial isoprene emission significantly affects future ozone projections

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Received: 1 August 2008 – Accepted: 16 September 2008 – Published: 28 November 2008

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Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

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## Abstract

5 Simulations of future tropospheric composition often include substantial increases in biogenic isoprene emissions arising from the Arrhenius-like leaf emission response and warmer surface temperatures, and from enhanced vegetation productivity in response to temperature and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. However, a number of recent laboratory and field data have suggested a direct inhibition of leaf isoprene production by increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, notwithstanding isoprene being produced from precursor molecules that include some of the primary products of carbon assimilation. The cellular mechanism that underlies the decoupling of leaf photosynthesis and isoprene production still awaits a full explanation but accounting for this observation in a dynamic vegetation model that contains a semi-mechanistic treatment of isoprene emissions has been shown to change future global isoprene emission estimates notably. Here we use these estimates in conjunction with a chemistry-climate model to compare the effects of isoprene simulations without and with a direct CO<sub>2</sub>-inhibition on late 21st century O<sub>3</sub> and OH levels. The impact on surface O<sub>3</sub> was significant. Including the CO<sub>2</sub>-inhibition of isoprene resulted in opposing responses in polluted (O<sub>3</sub> decreases of up to 10 ppbv) vs. less polluted (O<sub>3</sub> increases of up to 10 ppbv) source regions, due to isoprene nitrate and peroxy acetyl nitrate (PAN) chemistry. OH concentration increased with relatively lower future isoprene emissions, decreasing methane lifetime by ~7 months. Our simulations underline the large uncertainties in future chemistry and climate studies due to biogenic emission patterns and emphasize the problems of using globally averaged climate metrics to quantify the atmospheric impact of reactive, heterogeneously distributed substances.

## 1 Introduction

25 Understanding how the chemical composition of the troposphere will evolve over the coming century is of central importance for climate change projections and for the de-

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velopment of air quality policies. Climate model integrations need to consider possible changes to anthropogenic and biogenic emission patterns, as well as the response of atmospheric chemistry to changes in temperature, humidity and atmospheric transport. Whilst there are commonly applied projections of future anthropogenic emissions (e.g. Nakicenovic et al., 2000; Dentener et al., 2005), atmospheric chemistry modellers have to estimate future biogenic emissions in a variety of ways, using off/on-line emissions models (e.g. Sanderson et al., 2003; Hauglustaine et al., 2005) or by scaling present day emissions (e.g. Zeng et al., 2008). In the case of biogenic isoprene ( $C_5H_8$ ), a highly reactive compound (Atkinson and Arey, 2003) and the non-methane volatile organic compound (VOC) with the greatest global emission flux (Guenther et al., 1995), models project large increases in the emission by the 2090s (27–70% relative to present day emissions of  $\sim 450\text{--}550\text{ Tg C a}^{-1}$  – Sanderson et al., 2003; Lathièrè et al., 2005; Wiedinmyer et al., 2006; Arneth et al., 2008), due to the combined effect of higher surface temperatures, strongly temperature-dependent emissions algorithms (Guenther et al., 1995) and more productive vegetation. However, recent laboratory and field data suggest that higher  $CO_2$  concentrations inhibit isoprene emission (e.g. Rosenstiel et al., 2003; Possell et al., 2005; an overview is provided in Arneth et al., 2007a; see also Fig. 1).

These observations are puzzling: they indicate a decoupling of isoprene production from photosynthesis, although one of the chief isoprene precursors (glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate, G3P) is provided by the Calvin Cycle and chemical reduction of the precursors to isoprene is achieved with energy provided from photosynthetic electron transport rate (Niinemets et al., 1999). One hypothesis argues for a changed cell-internal competition for a second isoprene precursor molecule, pyruvate, as a possible metabolic control (Rosenstiel et al., 2003). Phosphoenolpyruvate, the pyruvate precursor, is directed away from the chloroplast (the location of isoprene synthesis) towards other reaction pathways, which are stimulated by increasing  $CO_2$  concentration. In future climate change scenarios, including the declining leaf isoprene emission to increasing  $CO_2$  concentration counters the stimulation of emissions by the warmer

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temperatures that accompany the CO<sub>2</sub> increase. Globally, emissions have been found to remain relatively unaltered over the 21st century as these two responses tend to balance each other (Arneth et al., 2007b).

This CO<sub>2</sub>-isoprene effect, thus far omitted from chemistry/climate modelling studies, has possible ramifications for projected tropospheric ozone and OH levels (and hence methane lifetime), as both are sensitive to the magnitude and spatial distribution of isoprene emission (e.g. Wang and Shallcross, 2000; Sanderson et al., 2003; Fiore et al., 2005; Hauglustaine et al., 2005; Wu et al., 2007; Zeng et al., 2008). Here, we use a chemistry/climate model with isoprene emissions calculated from a recently developed vegetation-isoprene emission model (Arneth et al., 2007a) to investigate the impact of this isoprene/CO<sub>2</sub> effect on tropospheric composition projections for the late 21st century. Further discussion on the impact of isoprene chemistry in the model and the interaction of isoprene and anthropogenic emission changes can be found in Young et al. (2008).

## 2 Model descriptions

### 2.1 LPJ-GUESS and isoprene emission

Isoprene emissions were calculated using the dynamic global vegetation modelling framework LPJ-GUESS, used here in global (“DGVM”) mode (Smith et al., 2001; Sitch et al., 2003), with a process-based isoprene model adapted from Niinemets et al. (1999). Photosynthesis is calculated in a process-based way, adopted from the well established model developed by Farquhar and colleagues (Farquhar et al., 1980; Collatz et al., 1991; Haxeltine and Prentice, 1996). LPJ-GUESS accounts for stimulation of net primary productivity (NPP) to increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, giving a similar response to the observations from the Free-Air Carbon Enrichment (FACE) experiments (Hickler et al., 2008).

Leaf isoprene production is calculated from photosynthetic electron transport rate,

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which provides the energy that is required to chemically reduce the C<sub>3</sub>-isoprene precursors along the DOXP (1-Deoxyxylulose 5-phosphate) pathway (Lichtenthaler, 1999; Niinemets et al., 1999). One of the two initial precursors (G3P) is the initial product of photosynthetic carbon fixation; the second (pyruvate) is synthesized in the cytosol and transported (as phosphoenolpyruvate) across the chloroplast membrane. As isoprene amounts to only few percent of assimilation in terms of leaf carbon loss (Guenther, 2002) the model assumes that, over periods from minutes to few days, carbon supply is non limiting for isoprene production. It has been demonstrated that the short-term temperature and light response, as well as today's global emission patterns, are comparable with other isoprene model estimates (Arneth et al., 2007a, b, 2008).

Over longer periods, for instance past or future climate change scenarios, the model includes a representation of the observed decreasing leaf emissions as CO<sub>2</sub> concentration increases (and vice versa). Arneth et al. (2007a) showed that the calculated change in leaf internal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration ( $C_i$ ), when expressed inversely proportional to the internal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at 370 ppmv (under non-water stressed conditions), successfully reproduced the leaf isoprene response observed in most experimental studies in which plants were grown in a range of CO<sub>2</sub> environments (Possell et al., 2005). Figure 1 illustrates the relationship described by Arneth et al. (2007a), updated to include a larger range of field and laboratory studies. Whilst the cellular mechanism behind the isoprene inhibition is not yet fully understood, the simple expression as a function of changing  $C_i$  conceptually fits well with the hypothesis of changing competition for pyruvate as leaf internal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration changes (Rosenstiel et al., 2003). Nonetheless, while most of the studies follow the suggested response it is clear that the sensitivity of the isoprene-CO<sub>2</sub> response may vary between experimental treatments or between plant species, most visibly in a study of *Quercus rubra* where emissions actually increased with CO<sub>2</sub> (Sharkey et al., 1991). Clearly, a larger number of studies are needed to establish the CO<sub>2</sub>-response more firmly, but when included based on our current knowledge the CO<sub>2</sub>-inhibition of isoprene emission has the potential to counter the stimulating effects of higher temperature and vegetation CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization in a range

of climate and CO<sub>2</sub> scenarios (Arneth et al., 2007b).

Incidentally, since monoterpene production occurs along the same chloroplastic pathway it is likely that a similar response takes place. Whilst the effects of growth CO<sub>2</sub> concentration on monoterpene emissions have not been the focus of intensive study, an inhibition of monoterpene emissions at elevated CO<sub>2</sub> has been observed (Loreto et al., 2001; Rapparini et al., 2004).

## 2.2 UM\_CAM chemistry-climate model

Chemistry-climate integrations were conducted using the latest version of UM\_CAM (fully described by Zeng et al., 2008), which has been used previously for both contemporary (Zeng and Pyle, 2005) and future (Zeng and Pyle, 2003) chemistry-climate simulations. Briefly, the climate model is based on the atmosphere-only version of the UK Met Office Unified Model (v4.5, HadAM3, Pope et al., 2000), using prescribed sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) and sea-ice distribution. The horizontal resolution is 2.5°×3.75° (latitude/longitude) and 19 hybrid sigma-pressure vertical coordinates extend from the surface to 4.6 hPa. The radiation code (Edwards and Slingo, 1996) includes long and short wave absorptions by water vapour, CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>, with additional absorption by methane, nitrous oxide, CFC-11 and CFC-12 in the long wave only.

Photolysis, wet and dry deposition, and the non-isoprene part of the chemical mechanism are similar to the offline chemical transport model TOMCAT (Law et al., 1998), including a full description of inorganic O<sub>x</sub>-NO<sub>x</sub>-HO<sub>x</sub> chemistry and near-explicit oxidation mechanisms for methane, ethane, propane and acetone. For isoprene oxidation we use the Mainz isoprene mechanism (MIM) (Pöschl et al., 2001), which is also implemented in the MATCH model (von Kuhlmann et al., 2003) and is of comparable complexity to isoprene oxidation schemes used in other models (Folberth et al., 2006; Horowitz et al., 2007).

The role of isoprene in reactive-nitrogen (NO<sub>y</sub>) chemistry has received particular attention in atmospheric chemistry modelling studies (e.g. Horowitz et al., 1998, 2007; von Kuhlmann et al., 2004) and it is therefore important to clarify the parameterisa-

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tions of NO<sub>y</sub> chemistry used in UM\_CAM. In the MIM a single lumped species (ISON) is used to represent both stabilised hydroxy alkyl nitrates (“isoprene nitrates”), a minor product from the reaction of isoprene hydroxy-peroxy radicals (ISO<sub>2</sub>) with NO, and peroxy alkyl nitrates, from the reaction of isoprene with NO<sub>3</sub>. The parameterisation of the kinetics and solubility of ISON is important in determining whether it is a reservoir or sink of NO<sub>x</sub> (=NO+NO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere. For deposition, we use parameters that aim to account for the expected different physical properties of the constituent species of ISON: hydroxy alkyl nitrates are likely to deposit more quickly than peroxy alkyl nitrates. A Henry’s Law constant ( $K_H$  (298 K)) of  $3.0 \times 10^3 \text{ M atm}^{-1}$  is applied, derived from the average of data for 2-nitroxy butanol and 3-methyl-1-butyl nitrate (Staudinger and Roberts, 1996), and the dry deposition velocities are approximately 15% higher than those used for PAN (using data from Giannakopoulos (1998) and refs. therein). For the reaction kinetics, the data from Pöschl et al. (2001) were adopted: ISON is produced in a 4.4% yield from the ISO<sub>2</sub>+NO reaction (Chen et al., 1998), whilst the ISON+OH reaction (ultimately recycling NO<sub>x</sub>) has a rate constant of  $1.3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Kwok and Atkinson, 1995). The solubility, dry deposition rate and rate constants are on the lower end of the range of literature estimates (e.g. see the discussion in Horowitz et al., 2007), although sensitivity studies suggest that changing these parameterisations to match the recommendations of Horowitz et al. (2007) result in relatively small perturbations globally (generally <5% effect on boundary layer ozone) (Young et al., unpublished results).

### 3 Experiment descriptions

In this study, we present the results from three UM\_CAM model simulations, summarised in Table 1. The set up of the BASE simulation is appropriate to present day conditions, using IIASA anthropogenic emissions (Dentener et al., 2005), LPJ isoprene emissions (average of 1980–1999) calculated with present day climate and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Arneth et al., 2007b), and climatological SSTs and sea-ice fields (GISST)

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(Parker et al., 1995) as the boundary condition for UM\_CAM. The future simulations (noCO<sub>2</sub> and wCO<sub>2</sub>) were designed to simulate a pessimistic 2090s atmosphere consistent with the SRES A2 scenario (Nakicenovic et al., 2000). Emissions of anthropogenic ozone precursors and the concentrations of well-mixed greenhouse gases (see Johns et al., 2003) are greatly enhanced compared to present day, though emissions from biomass burning and sources other than isoprene are at the same level as BASE. UM\_CAM was forced with SST and sea-ice fields calculated for a doubled CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. We used the SRES A2 scenario in order to assess the sensitivity to a large climate change and increase of ozone precursor emissions. noCO<sub>2</sub> and wCO<sub>2</sub> differ in their isoprene emission calculated by LPJ-GUESS, with emissions in the former responding to warmer temperature and enhanced vegetation productivity and in the latter including additionally the leaf CO<sub>2</sub>-isoprene inhibition. Both vegetation model simulations used CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations following the SRES A2 scenario and a corresponding future climate from the Hadley Centre HadCM3 model to calculate the isoprene emission response (Arneth et al., 2007b). In the calculations LPJ-GUESS simulated potential natural vegetation; additional effects of anthropogenic land-cover change on isoprene emissions were not taken into account. Figure 2 illustrates the differences in yearly total isoprene emission between the three simulations. The difference between the wCO<sub>2</sub> and noCO<sub>2</sub> simulations reveals the impact of the direct CO<sub>2</sub>-isoprene effect in a 2090s atmosphere.

#### 4 Impact on ozone concentrations

Figure 3a and b shows the difference in (January and July) monthly-mean surface ozone concentrations that were simulated by using the two different future isoprene emission scenarios. Both panels clearly illustrate a significant impact on surface ozone, but with a large degree of spatial heterogeneity. The relatively lower isoprene emissions in wCO<sub>2</sub> compared to noCO<sub>2</sub> resulted in decreased ozone levels over most oceanic regions in both months. In these areas the major source of NO<sub>x</sub> (and hence ozone



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production) is the thermal degradation of PAN transported from adjacent continents (Moxim et al., 1996; Horowitz et al., 1998). Isoprene is the major PAN precursor in the model; the tropospheric PAN burden decreased by ~24% between noCO<sub>2</sub> and wCO<sub>2</sub> (Table 1). Surface NO<sub>x</sub> levels decreased by 10–30% over most oceanic regions in wCO<sub>2</sub>, and by 50% in continental outflow regions (not shown). This effect becomes visible, for instance, in the north Atlantic Ocean in July, where the wCO<sub>2</sub> simulation shows peak ozone reductions of 5–10 ppbv (15–20%) due to reduced export of NO<sub>x</sub> from eastern USA, an area influenced by isoprene emissions from south-eastern USA (Fiore et al., 2005). Decreases in ozone in wCO<sub>2</sub> were also evident in July over the polluted regions of eastern USA, Europe and southeast Asia, with reductions of between 2–10 ppbv (5–10%). Co-located higher NO<sub>x</sub> levels in these areas indicate that ozone production is sensitive to the level of VOCs, hence the relatively less isoprene in wCO<sub>2</sub> leading to reduced ozone (Sillman, 1999).

Figure 3a and b shows 2–10 ppbv (up to 20–25%) surface ozone increases over the Amazon, tropical Africa and the maritime continent for both months, coincident with a ~50% decrease in isoprene emission over these major source regions in wCO<sub>2</sub> compared to noCO<sub>2</sub>. The ozone increase resulted from reduced sequestration of NO<sub>x</sub> by isoprene oxidation products (isoprene nitrates and PAN) (e.g. Roelofs and Leliveld, 2000), leading to increased NO<sub>x</sub> levels (10–30%) and increased ozone production in these regions, as well as reduced isoprene ozonolysis (as noted by Fiore et al., 2005; Wiedinmyer et al., 2006). The surface ozone increase was most marked in the Amazon (>15% in both months), where the low NO<sub>x</sub> levels result in a lower oxidizing capacity increasing the stability of isoprene nitrates and hence their importance as a NO<sub>x</sub> sink (Pöschl et al., 2000).

Zonal mean ozone changes (not shown) were largely consistent with the effects of non-methane VOC chemistry described by Wang et al. (1998). wCO<sub>2</sub> showed a 1–3 ppbv increase (~5%) in tropical upper troposphere (UT) concentrations compared to noCO<sub>2</sub> in January and July. This resulted from a decrease in isoprene oxidation products in convective plumes, reducing NO<sub>x</sub> sequestration in the region (NO<sub>x</sub> levels

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increase by 20–40%) and hence increasing ozone production. In the mid and lower troposphere, ozone decreased by ~5% in wCO<sub>2</sub>. In less-polluted regions, such as the tropics, the ozone decrease is attributable to the reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> transported by isoprene oxidation products (NO<sub>x</sub> levels decrease by 10–15%). Over more polluted regions, where NO<sub>x</sub> is more efficiently recycled from isoprene nitrates due to the higher oxidising capacity, the drop in ozone levels is due to lower peroxy radical concentrations in wCO<sub>2</sub> compared to noCO<sub>2</sub>, reducing ozone production.

Overall, Table 1 shows that the tropospheric ozone burdens of noCO<sub>2</sub> and wCO<sub>2</sub> were almost the same, indicating that increases and decreases in ozone concentration approximately balance. Likewise for the tropospheric ozone budget terms, Table 1 shows that difference between wCO<sub>2</sub> and noCO<sub>2</sub> for the globally integrated production and loss terms is small, disguising larger regional differences. For instance, the difference in boundary layer ozone production between wCO<sub>2</sub> and noCO<sub>2</sub> ranges from +/-50%, with the increases and decreases following the pattern outlined for surface ozone above. Further discussion on the relationship between isoprene and the tropospheric ozone budget can be found in Young et al. (2008).

The results from this study can be compared to two other studies that investigated the relationship between late 21st century ozone levels and isoprene emission changes, also using the SRES A2 scenario. The presence of both decreases and increases in future surface ozone, due to the regionally heterogeneous effect of isoprene on atmospheric chemistry, are not reported by Sanderson et al. (2003) or Hauglustaine et al. (2005), who found near universal increases in ozone wherever isoprene increases. Part of the reason for the difference between the simulations may arise from the treatment of isoprene nitrates, which were identified as the major source of systematic difference between chemical mechanisms of different models by Pöschl et al. (2000). The chemical scheme of Sanderson et al. (2003) does not include the formation of isoprene nitrates from the isoprene-peroxy+NO reaction (Collins et al., 1999), excluding this sink for NO<sub>x</sub>. The oxidation mechanism of Hauglustaine et al. (2005) recycles NO<sub>x</sub> from isoprene nitrates at a 15% faster rate than in our model (Folberth et al., 2006

versus Pöschl et al., 2001), reducing their efficacy as a  $\text{NO}_x$  sink and potentially leading to higher ozone levels. However, a UM\_CAM model integration using 3 times faster  $\text{NO}_x$  recycling than the BASE simulation (not shown) (as per Horowitz et al., 2007) resulted in <5% increases in ozone. Furthermore, compared to a present-day UM\_CAM integration without isoprene emissions included, both this sensitivity simulation and BASE simulation show similar magnitude decreases in ozone over non-polluted tropical regions. Overall, whilst the treatment of isoprene nitrates might explain some of the differences between this model study and that of Hauglustaine et al. (2005), there are clearly other model elements making a contribution. Although both models include wet and dry depositional losses for isoprene nitrates, there are no data presented in Folberth et al. (2006) to compare the UM\_CAM parameters against.

Several other modelling studies that have investigated isoprene chemistry calculate results similar to those reported here for UM\_CAM. Using the MOZART-2 model (Horowitz et al., 2003), Wiedinmyer et al. (2006) report both increases and decreases in surface ozone in response to higher isoprene emissions, although for simulations where anthropogenic emissions were held at present day levels. A similar result is found by Fiore et al. (2005), who use the GEOS-CHEM model (Bey et al., 2001) to compare present-day USA isoprene emission inventories. Fiore et al. (2005) calculate ozone increases in response to isoprene decreases in the south-eastern USA, which they attribute to decreased isoprene ozonolysis and isoprene nitrate chemistry. Houweling et al. (1998), Roelofs and Lelieveld (2000) and Pfister et al. (2008) all also report tropical ozone decreases (especially over the Amazon) when comparing runs with and without isoprene emissions included. Houweling et al. (1998) assumed no wet depositional loss of isoprene nitrates, as well as a low dry deposition velocity (the same as PAN). But as they used a low rate constant for isoprene nitrates with OH (~7 times lower than used here), their effectiveness as a  $\text{NO}_x$ -sink is increased. Roelofs and Lelieveld (2000) assumed that isoprene nitrates quickly react to produce nitric acid, which makes them an effective  $\text{NO}_x$ -sink (due to the high solubility of nitric acid). Pfister et al. (2008) used an isoprene nitrate+OH rate constant ~3.5 times faster

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than used in UM\_CAM (as well as including an additional reaction with ozone), and parameterised isoprene nitrate wet deposition by mapping the species onto nitric acid; there is no information on the dry deposition velocity.

Clearly there are many additional differences in both the model chemistry schemes and the underlying climate models/meteorological data (that drive emissions and control chemical reaction rates) that can lead to the range of responses published to date. For instance, von Kuhlmann et al. (2004) investigated the sensitivity of their model results to different isoprene oxidation mechanisms, reporting effects as large as 20–60% on surface ozone over isoprene source regions. The differences between studies underlies both the need to investigate sensitivities and constraints of isoprene nitrate chemistry (von Kuhlmann et al., 2004; Horowitz et al., 2007) as well as to conduct multi-model ensemble studies (e.g. Stevenson et al., 2005; Shindell et al., 2006).

Figure 3c compares the yearly average absolute difference between  $w\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{noCO}_2$ , with the absolute difference between  $\text{noCO}_2$  and BASE (i.e. the total change between the 2090s and present day as reported in studies that do not include the  $\text{CO}_2$  impact on isoprene emission). As has been observed in a number of previous other model experiments studies (e.g. Johnson et al., 1999; Zeng and Pyle, 2003; Hauglustaine et al., 2005; Zeng et al., 2008) altered anthropogenic emissions (mainly  $\text{NO}_x$ ) dominated the future surface ozone projections overall. However, the difference between  $w\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{noCO}_2$  amounts to  $>20\%$  of the  $\text{noCO}_2$ -BASE difference in the continental outflows, and it is up to half the effect over the western Amazon, highlighting the importance of isoprene chemistry in these regions. As well as emission perturbations, climate change also contributes to the impact on ozone. In UM\_CAM, the effect of climate change alone on the tropospheric ozone burden is a 3.5% reduction (Zeng et al., 2008), mainly attributable to an increased loss rate with the higher humidity in a warmer climate.

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## 5 Impact on OH concentrations

OH is the most important oxidizing agent in the troposphere, determining the rate of removal of many reduced gases, including methane. Tropospheric OH levels are uniformly higher in wCO<sub>2</sub> compared to noCO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 4), as the relatively lower isoprene emission in the former reduced the OH sink (e.g. see also Spivakovsky et al., 2000 and Pfister et al., 2008). Figure 4 shows that the largest relative difference between wCO<sub>2</sub> and noCO<sub>2</sub> OH levels was simulated in the tropical upper tropopause (UT), where there was a 13% increase. Two reasons underlie this result (cf. zonal mean ozone): firstly, in wCO<sub>2</sub> there was a decreased OH sink in the UT due to relatively lower concentrations of isoprene oxidation products in the convectively lifted air masses; and secondly, less lightning-produced NO<sub>x</sub> was sequestered by isoprene oxidation products in wCO<sub>2</sub> (tropical UT NO<sub>x</sub> levels were 20–35% higher in wCO<sub>2</sub> compared to noCO<sub>2</sub>), increasing the efficiency of HO<sub>2</sub> to OH conversion (Spivakovsky et al., 2000). There was also a large increase in the tropical lower troposphere OH concentrations in wCO<sub>2</sub> (8%), mostly due to the reaction of isoprene with OH. Globally, the average tropospheric OH concentration was 7.2% higher in wCO<sub>2</sub> which extended the tropospheric chemical lifetime of methane by ~7 months (Table 1), illustrating the indirect radiative forcing attributable to isoprene (Collins et al., 2002).

As for ozone, OH differences between BASE and noCO<sub>2</sub> or BASE and wCO<sub>2</sub> are the product of both climate change and changes in anthropogenic and isoprene emissions. Changes in emissions have antagonistic effects, with NO<sub>x</sub> increases tending to increase OH (through increased production of ozone) and VOC increases tending to decrease OH (by increasing the OH sink). In previous simulations with the UM\_CAM model, anthropogenic emission increases in the SRES A2 scenario have led to an overall 17% increase in OH (Zeng et al., 2008). A warmer climate increases OH production, as the atmosphere is able to hold more water vapour. In the present simulations the signal of climate on OH was calculated from two wCO<sub>2</sub> runs, one with SSTs, sea-ice and well-mixed greenhouse gas concentrations as in BASE and the other as

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described in Sect. 3. Comparing this simulations showed that climate change led to a 7.6% increase in the average OH concentration.. This is comparable to the difference calculated between wCO<sub>2</sub> and noCO<sub>2</sub>; in fact the signal from the change in isoprene emissions was similar in magnitude to the climate change signal throughout most of the lower troposphere and the tropical UT.

## 6 Conclusions

Biogenic emissions are important uncertainties in future atmospheric chemistry and climate even in a scenario with strong anthropogenic emission changes. The direct isoprene-CO<sub>2</sub> interaction significantly alters surface ozone concentrations, especially in the tropics, which is important for future air quality projections. The projected tropospheric OH levels are also significantly affected, with the relatively lower isoprene emission, in simulations that accounted for the inhibitory effect of increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, reducing the methane lifetime notably. However, whether the ozone burden increases or decreases depends on the region, illustrating the problems of expressing climate effects of reactive traces gases based on global total burden or global radiative forcing. In our calculations the overall ozone radiative effect presumably would be small, but the global totals hide a possible cooling effect in some areas and a warming in others (although not necessarily geographically aligned with the changes in ozone – Shindell et al., 2007). Other regional impacts due to long-range transport of reaction products (e.g. PAN) or the indirect climate effect on methane lifetime are also difficult to take into account with existing climate change metrics. Ways forward may be to break global warming potentials (GWPs) into distinct regional values and/or to use novel calculations like global temperature change potentials (GTP, Rypdal et al., 2005; Shine et al., 2005) of short-lived species that may also be compared relative to that of CO<sub>2</sub> (Boucher and Reddy, 2008).

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*Acknowledgements.* PY, JP and GZ acknowledge funding from the NERC Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS) and thank the Hadley Centre for use of the UM. AA and GS acknowledge support from the European Commission, Swedish Formas and the Swedish Research Council.

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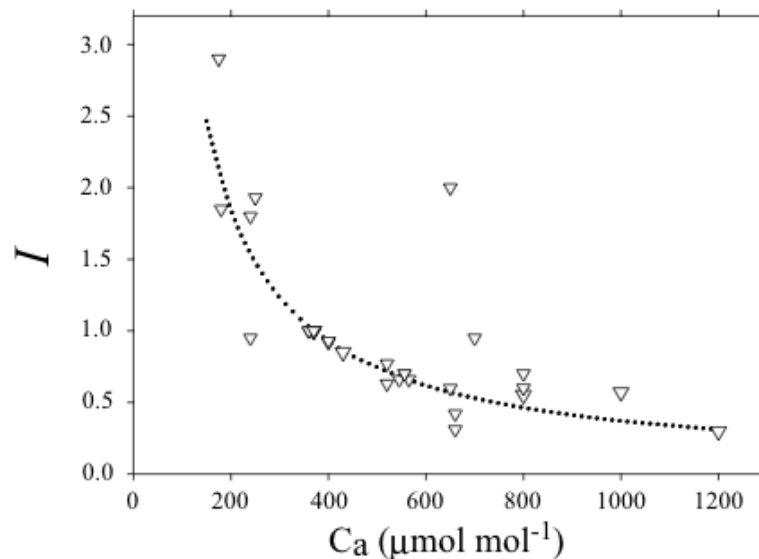
**Table 1.** Simulation emission fluxes and tropospheric ozone budget terms, PAN burden, OH concentration and methane lifetime<sup>a</sup>.

	BASE	noCO <sub>2</sub>	wCO <sub>2</sub>
NO <sub>x</sub>	48.8	124.1	124.1
CO	1077	2327	2327
CH <sub>4</sub>	1760	3731	3731
Isoprene	401	764	346
Other VOCs	137	278	278
UM_CAM climate	present	2095–2100	2095–2100
O <sub>3</sub> production	4133	8554	8288
O <sub>3</sub> loss	3338	7444	7183
O <sub>3</sub> influx	387	816	788
O <sub>3</sub> dry deposition	1182	1926	1893
O <sub>3</sub> burden	316.0	457.8	455.5
PAN burden	4.0	6.6	5.0
OH concentration	8.4	8.7	9.3
CH <sub>4</sub> lifetime	10.7	9.1	8.5

<sup>a</sup> NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (Tg N a<sup>-1</sup>) include contributions from surface, aircraft and lightning; CO emissions in Tg a<sup>-1</sup>; fixed CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations in ppbv; isoprene in Tg C a<sup>-1</sup>; and other VOC emissions in Tg C a<sup>-1</sup>. O<sub>3</sub> budget terms (production, loss, influx and deposition) in Tg a<sup>-1</sup>; O<sub>3</sub> and PAN burdens in Tg; OH concentration in 10<sup>5</sup> molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>; and methane lifetime in years.

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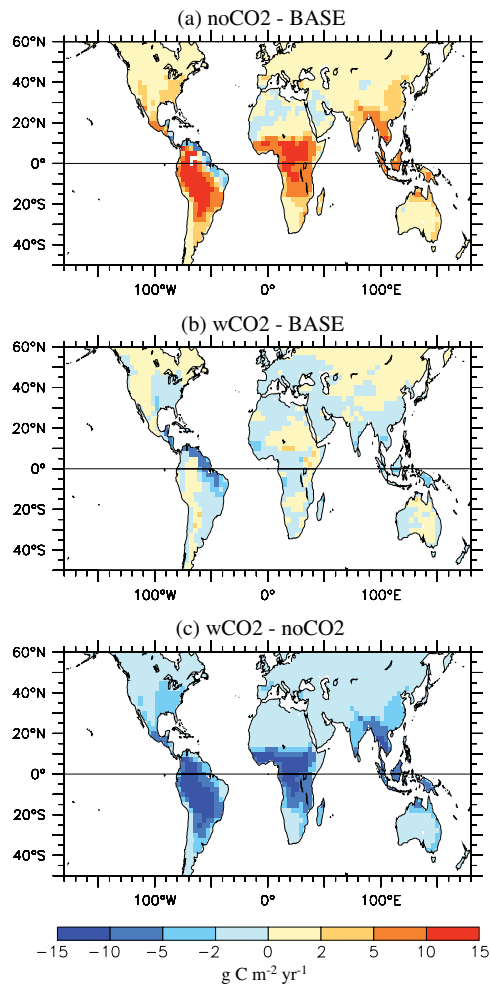


**Fig. 1.** Field and laboratory observations of leaf isoprene emissions from plants grown in a range of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations ( $C_a$ ). Data are normalised to be unity at a CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of 370 ppmv. The dotted line is the simple representation used in Arneth et al. (2007a):  $I$  (normalised) =  $C_{i-370}/C_i$ , with  $C_i$  being the leaf internal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at non-water-stressed conditions ( $0.7C_a$ ), and  $C_{i-370} = C_i$  at 370 ppm. Figure adopted from Possell et al. (2005) and Arneth et al. (2007a); data are from Sharkey et al. (1991), Buckley et al. (2001), Rosenstiel et al. (2003), Centritto et al. (2004), Scholefield et al. (2004), Possell et al. (2005) and Wilkinson et al. (2008).

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**Fig. 2.** Difference in the yearly total isoprene emissions ( $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ) between (a) noCO<sub>2</sub> and BASE, (b) wCO<sub>2</sub> and BASE and (c) wCO<sub>2</sub> and noCO<sub>2</sub>.

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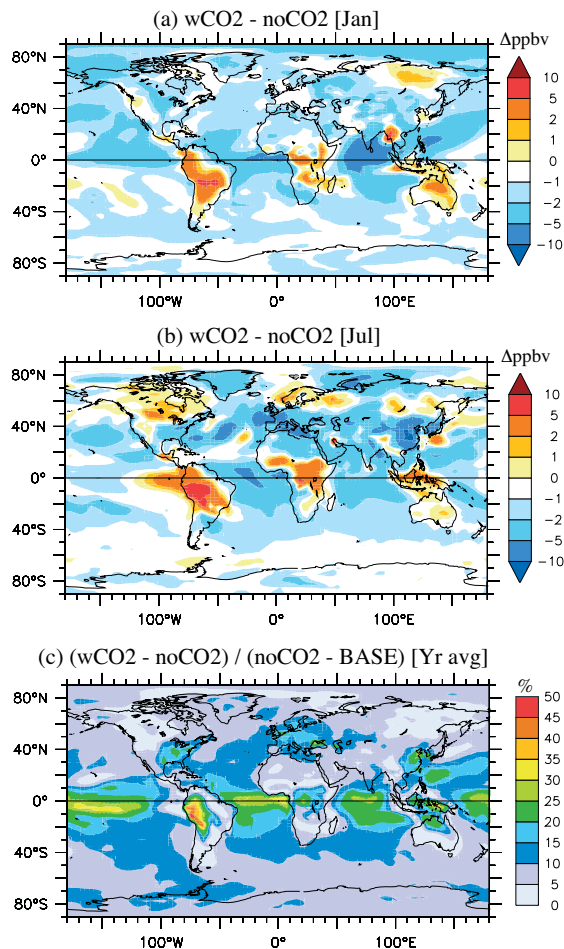
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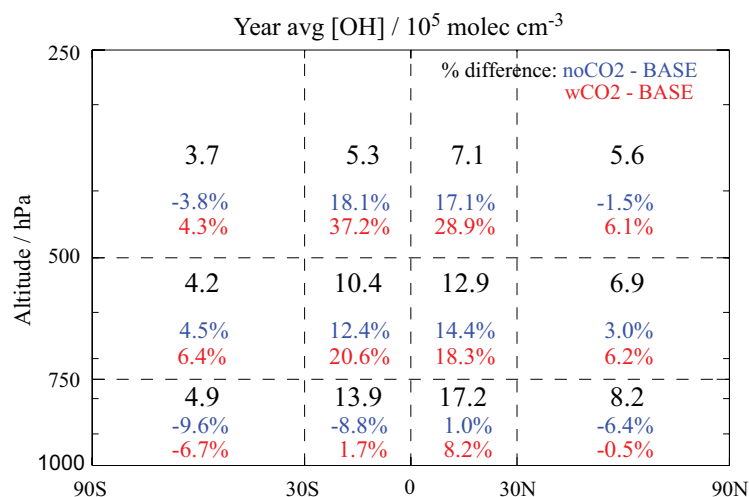


**Fig. 3.** Difference in monthly mean surface ozone concentrations (ppbv) between wCO<sub>2</sub> and noCO<sub>2</sub> simulations for (a) January and (b) July (2090–2095 average). And (c) Yearly averaged (absolute) difference in surface ozone between wCO<sub>2</sub> and noCO<sub>2</sub> relative to the yearly averaged (absolute) difference between noCO<sub>2</sub> and BASE (%).

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**Fig. 4.** Air mass weighted, yearly average tropospheric OH concentrations for the BASE simulation (black), calculated for the regions specified in Lawrence et al. (2001). The percentage differences between noCO<sub>2</sub> and BASE (blue) and wCO<sub>2</sub> and BASE (red) are also shown.

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