

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES DONE FOLLOWING THE REFEREES' SUGGESTIONS

Dear editor,

Thanks a lot for considering our paper for the revision stage and for the editorial tasks.

As you will see we have implemented the changes and suggestions from both referees. Both reviews were extremely interesting for us, and also coincident in the fact that we miss to better describe the variation of background O<sub>3</sub>, and the potential stratospheric contributions. You will see that we worked a lot on it and now this is clearly integrated in discussion and interpretation. You will see that we modified a lot the paper in content and format.

Because we requested the support of Dr Millán to better understand the issue of the O<sub>3</sub> subsidence over the Mediterranean, and because he worked to interpret the meteorology to evidence the stratospheric contribution, as well as to prepare the new figure, we would like to introduce him as a co-author of this revised version. I hope you will accept this change also.

Once we finished with revisions we sent the manuscript to Cambridge Proofreading to correct errors in English usage.

We attach the version with track changes in order to easily detect the changes done and another one with these accepted. We also modified the S. I. We also attach a detailed description of how we took into account the referees' comments and suggestions.

We firmly believe that the review process has substantially improved the paper.

Thank you very much again and kind regards

Xavier

Barcelona, Spain, March 5, 2018

## REFEREE #1

*Overview: The paper deals with the phenomenology of the summer ozone episodes over the greater area of Madrid, Spain. I think that it is a very interesting study, analysing atmospheric measurements of ozone and fine particles together with many other atmospheric parameters and giving further insight to the complicated atmospheric mechanisms related with air pollution over the area. In my opinion, the document deserves publication in ACP, after the recommendations listed below are taken into account. REPLY, Thanks a lot for considering our manuscript suitable for publication after revision and also for the comments and suggestion on the stratospheric O<sub>3</sub> that improved a lot the article.*

*General comments: A weak point of the paper is that the levels of measured surface ozone are mainly related (or attributed) to the photochemical ozone production over the metropolitan area of Madrid. REPLY, Thanks a lot this comment. We also considered long range transport (named 'external' in the paper. But as you might see in the revised version we have enlarged this and also the stratospheric issue that we miss in our original submission.*

*On the other hand, I think that the variations of the background ozone levels within the boundary layer and the free troposphere are not discussed with sufficient detail. In relation to that comment and based on research results carried out on the other side of the Mediterranean basin, in the Eastern Mediterranean, it comes out that the regional background ozone levels in the free troposphere and the boundary layer during summer, regularly exceeding 60 ppb, contribute on the average to the greatest part of the surface ozone levels measured in large urban areas like Athens (Kalabokas et al., 2000; Kourtidis et al., 2002; Kouvarakis et al., 2002; Lelieveld et al., 2002; Kalabokas and Repapis, 2004; Gerasopoulos et al., 2005). The main origin of these high ozone background levels over the Eastern Mediterranean is tropospheric ozone subsidence, which seems to be strongly related with specific synoptic meteorological conditions, occurring very frequently during summer at the Eastern side of the Mediterranean basin (Kalabokas et al., 2013; Zanis et al., 2014; Kalabokas et al., 2015; Akritidis et al., 2016). In addition, recent research shows that during springtime ozone episodes (April – May) over the western Mediterranean similar synoptic meteorological patterns might also occur and which are linked with regional episodes mainly induced by large scale tropospheric ozone subsidence, influencing (or fumigating) the boundary layer as well as the ground surface ozone concentrations (Kalabokas et al., 2017).*

*REPLY, Thanks a lot for these observations. Yes you are completely right; we miss these issues in our discussions and interpretations. We have added these observations and discussions in several part of the revised paper. For example text added or changed includes:*

- *Abstract: We added: The results demonstrate the concatenation of venting and accumulation episodes, with relative O<sub>3</sub> lows (venting) and peaks (accumulation) in surface levels. Regardless of the episode type, fumigation of high altitude O<sub>3</sub> (from different origins) contributes the major proportion of surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations.*
- *Section 1: New text added: In the Eastern Mediterranean, the regional background O<sub>3</sub> levels in the free troposphere and the boundary layer during summer might regularly exceed 60 ppb, and fumigation of these upper air masses contribute on the average to the greatest part of the surface O<sub>3</sub> levels measured in Greece (Kalabokas et al., 2000; Kourtidis et al., 2002; Kouvarakis et al., 2002; Lelieveld et al., 2002; Kalabokas and Repapis, 2004; Gerasopoulos et al., 2005). Furthermore, a number of studies reported contributions of stratosphere to the surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations during specific*

meteorological scenarios in the same region (Kalabokas et al., 2013, 2015; Zanis et al., 2014; Parrish et al., 2012; Lefohn et al., 2012; Akritidis et al., 2016, among others). In addition, recent research shows that during springtime O<sub>3</sub> episodes (April – May) over the WMB similar synoptic meteorological patterns might also occur; and that these are linked with regional episodes mainly induced by large scale tropospheric O<sub>3</sub> subsidence, influencing the boundary layer as well as the ground surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (Kalabokas et al., 2017). However, the most intense episodes in the WMB occur in June-July according to the statistics for the 2000-2015 period by Querol et al. (2016) for Spain.

- Section 3.1. New text added: The AEMET free-sounding shows low O<sub>3</sub> surface concentrations (<45 ppb) and high levels (>70 ppb) in the middle troposphere (3000-5000 m a.s.l.), associated with very low relative humidity and intense W to NW winds blowing at that height, which will be discussed in section 4.
- Section 4: discussion added, see below.
- New figure added (see below)
- Conclusions modified (see below)

*Even if the typical meteorological conditions prevailing over the Iberian Peninsula during summer are quite different than in the Eastern Mediterranean, as it is very well described in the introduction of the manuscript, occasionally such conditions might occur. In fact, I think that this is the case of the ozone episode of 11-15 July 2016, which is the most studied period in the manuscript (when the intensive measuring campaign has taken place). As shown in Figs 3 and 12, the free tropospheric ozone levels are much higher on July 13, 2016 than the two weeks before and after and at the same time the relative humidity values in the lower troposphere are close to zero (and being in sharp contrast with the periods before and after). In fact, this feature is a very common characteristic of deep and large-scale tropospheric subsidence in summertime ozone vertical profiles over the Eastern Mediterranean, indicating an origin of air masses from the upper tropospheric or stratospheric layers (Kalabokas et al., 2013; Kalabokas et al., 2015).*

*Therefore, for a better assessment of the free tropospheric influence as well as the reported fumigation events over the area, I would suggest putting more emphasis on the analysis of the synoptic conditions during this most studied period, when the intensive measurement campaign has taken place (11-15 July 2016). A figure could be added including at least the daily meteorological maps of geopotential height, omega vertical velocity and specific humidity at 700hPa pressure level (representative for the free troposphere), which I think that they would be sufficient to follow satisfactorily the evolution and the geographical extent of the subsidence phenomenon (the subsiding air mass seems to originate from N-NW Atlantic). If this parameter is taken into account, then I think that the discussion concerning the origin of the fumigation events during 11-16 July 2016 would be more complete (tropospheric ozone subsidence in addition to the local ozone photochemical production associated with valley-breeze recirculation and ozone residual layers, as mentioned many times in the manuscript). So, I would suggest modifying accordingly the respective paragraphs, where sometimes the high ozone values recorded at the top of the boundary layer are not fully explained (e.g.: Page 5, lines 175-187; Page 9, lines 348 – 352, 362-365; Page 12, lines 470 – 473, 483-487; Page 14, lines 570 – 582).*

REPLY. Thanks a lot for these very interesting comments. Indeed we have applied all your suggestions and modified the introduction, discussion and conclusions sections to this end. Examples are:

- Section 4. We added the following discussion: Considering the free sounding O<sub>3</sub> profiles in Figure 3, high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (>70 ppb) can be observed above the PBL, between 3000 and 5000 m a.s.l., which may be related to larger scale transport of pollutants, previously

uplifted to the mid-troposphere or originated after a stratospheric intrusion and a subsequent deep subsidence into the middle troposphere, as it is probably the case based on the ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis data. Transport of high O<sub>3</sub> air masses in the middle troposphere, as for the 13/07/2016 in Figure 3, was also documented by Plaza et al. (1997) over this area in July 1994, during the final phase of a high O<sub>3</sub> period. More recently, Kalabokas et al. (2013, 2015, 2017), Zanis et al. (2014) and Akritidis et al (2016), among others, have shown that similar transport processes of enriched O<sub>3</sub> layers at high altitude, can contribute to increase surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations during the summer in the Eastern Mediterranean. This transport has been associated with large scale subsidence within strong northerly winds in the Eastern Mediterranean (Etesian winds), and the affected layers are dryer than average and show negative temperature anomalies. Figure S11 shows the ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis together with the AEMET O<sub>3</sub> free soundings at Madrid airport for the 13/07/2016. The ridging at the lower troposphere over the Bay of Biscay at the rear of an upper-level trough (left panels) is accompanied by intense NW winds blowing at the middle and upper troposphere and NE winds at ground level and up to 2000 m (see the radiosonde profile in the same figure). The O<sub>3</sub> intrusion is associated to the upper-level trough (Sections A-A and B-B in the figure), and a large area of deep subsidence and extremely low relative humidity observed within the NW flows over Madrid and to the north of the Iberian Peninsula and the Bay of Biscay. High O<sub>3</sub> concentrations values and low relative humidity of the ERA-Interim profiles over the airport of Madrid (green and red dotted-lines in the panel “g” of the Figure S11) are in agreement with the radiosonde observations in the same panel.

The question now is how much of this O<sub>3</sub> could fumigate at ground level. According to the radiosonde data, the mixing height top was about 2000 m a.s.l. at midday, but could increase to about 3100 m a.s.l. after the projection of the surface temperature increase observed during the afternoon at near-by stations. This height reaches the lower part of the O<sub>3</sub> enriched layer originated in the tropopause folding. Thus, a certain impact seems likely. However, the O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were relatively low at all surface stations during that day, as it corresponds to a vented low O<sub>3</sub> period.

- A new figure S11 has been added and discussed to show the stratospheric intrusion following your suggestion.
- We added these two paragraphs in the conclusions:
  - The O<sub>3</sub> source apportionment is very complex, having contributions from local/regional and remote sources, including the stratosphere. The relative contributions of these might vary in time and space (e.g. Lefohn et al., 2014).
  - Climate change may reduce the benefits of the O<sub>3</sub> abatement policy (since hot waves increase O<sub>3</sub> episodes), and this, as well as the measures and policies in N America and Asia will need to be considered into future Europe policies for O<sub>3</sub> mitigation (Lefohn and Cooper, 2015; Sicard et al., 2017).
- And we modified the fourth as follows:
  - In the MAB, during the highest O<sub>3</sub> (accumulation) episodes, in addition of the contribution (to surface concentrations) by fumigation of upper O<sub>3</sub> (from regional transport, hemispheric free troposphere O<sub>3</sub>, and intruded stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>, X in Figure 10), there is an added fraction produced locally and transported-recirculated within the MAB, which accumulates from one day to the next (Y in Figure 10).

*In addition, I think that it would be more appropriate to refer to “Western Mediterranean” ozone when analyzing ozone in Spain (instead of “Mediterranean” or “S. Europe” in general) as, according to the above mentioned papers, the phenomenology of the summertime ozone over the Eastern Mediterranean seems to be quite different than the typical ozone phenomenology over the Western Mediterranean.*

*REPLY: Yes we have revised and changed following your suggestion. Thanks for this.*

*I would strongly recommend taking these considerations into account, which have been made in the spirit to further improve this good quality manuscript, by modifying the respective paragraphs. After responding to these remarks, I think that the paper is ready for publication.*

*REPLY: Yes we did implement your very good observations and we thank you a lot for your very valuable review.*

*Technical comments: Fig. 4: Very condensed and difficult to follow, especially on printed paper. I would suggest splitting into two parts and eventually using gridlines.*

*REPLY: We made it again with clearer drawings.*

**END OF THE REPORT**

## REFEREE #2

### Comments from referee

*The study aimed to explore if changes in nucleation of ultrafine particles and high Surface ozone levels in urban areas could be related to the atmospheric dynamics changes over the European region at highest ozone risk. The content and the methodology are consistent and this study reports valuable conclusions based on experimental investigation by means of simultaneous vertical profiles of concentrations for both pollutants and meteorological parameters using balloons.*

*However, the conclusions can be improved (other than ozone levels are low with thick PBL and high wind speed) and some parts are really heavy going and need to be reformulated. In general, the English language can be improved and some parts need to be reformulated in a simpler way. The entire paper needs to be (deeply) reorganized (i.e. section Results & Discussions & Materials and Methods) and shortened.*

**REPLY, Thanks a lot for considering our manuscript suitable for publication after revision and also for the detailed revision done that improved a lot the presentation of our results. We have also revised again English usage.**

*The term “altitude” must be correctly used, i.e. use “altitude” for a.g.l. (for vertical profiles) and “elevation” for a.s.l. Please, revise all figures and manuscript.* **REPLY: Corrected in all text, figures and tables.**

*Abstract - Line 34: “high O3 level” or “ground-level O3”* **REPLY: Done.**

*Introduction - The state-of-the-art is consistent, however for a non-European scientist; the references are limited to Spain instead of Western Mediterranean region. The state-of-the-art must be documented e.g. including an overview of ozone impacts (Ochoa-Hueso et al., 2017, EnPo) and I found different studies (Lelieveld et al., 2002\_Science; Kalabokas et al., 2008\_ Atm Env; Giannakopoulos et al., 2009\_Global&Planetary Change; Velchev et al., 2011\_ACP; Sicard et al., 2013\_Atm Env).*

**REPLY: Thanks for the constructive comment. Yes indeed we went directly to focus referencing of Millan’s team in Spain, because they were pioneering the ozone research in this region in the 1980s-1990s, and in our opinion they built the basis of knowledge for atmospheric dynamics governing O3 levels in The Western Mediterranean, clearly different from those prevailing in the Eastern side of the basin. We recognize now that we missed first reviewing the whole Mediterranean issue. We have added now this view and included references you supplied us with and commented them in the introduction and discussion sections.**

*Particulate matter and tropospheric ozone are the most threatening air pollutants in cities (EEA, 2015). More than 75% of the urban population is exposed to levels exceeding WHO guidelines for PM2.5, PM10 and surface O3 (EEA, 2015).* **REPLY, we understand that you require us to add this into our text, and we did it using updated EEA (2017). Thanks**

*Line 66: “implemented” by?* **REPLY: Added: by the national, regional and local administrations**

*Line 70: add a reference.* **REPLY Added: EEA, 2017**

*Line 73: add an example for "easy to identify".* REPLY: Added: (such as abating industrial, shipping and traffic emission with catalytic converters for NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate controls for PM).

*Lines 76-77, add a reference, what are the climatic and geographical characteristics leading to high ozone levels? In summer, the western part of the Mediterranean basin is dominated by anti-cyclonic subsidence (Hadley circulation +Azores), high pressure, low winds and strong insolation and thus atmospheric stability favouring photochemical production of O<sub>3</sub> (Kalabokas et al., 2008; Giannakopoulos et al., 2009; Velchev et al., 2011; Sicard et al., 2013) and emissions of biogenic VOCs (Giannakopoulos et al., 2009).* REPLY: Added: In summer, the Western Mediterranean Basin (WMB), surrounded by high mountains, falls under the influence of the semi-permanent Azores anticyclone. Clear skies prevail under a generalized level of subsidence aloft, and meso-meteorological processes with marked diurnal cycles dominate. Re-circulations, strong insolation and stability of upper layers favour the production/accumulation of O<sub>3</sub> (Millán et al., 1997, 2000 and 2002; Kalabokas et al., 2008; Giannakopoulos et al., 2009; Velchev et al., 2011; Sicard et al., 2013), and the emissions of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) (Giannakopoulos et al., 2009).

*Line 90: add a value and a reference for "peaks O3 concentrations".* REPLY: We added (those exceeding the hourly information threshold of 180 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

The ozone control measures are effective at rural sites while ozone levels are rising in cities (Paoletti et al., 2014\_EnPo; Sicard et al., 2013\_Atm Env). REPLY: Thank you, yes we added these references to the others that find this trend in Europe. We missed them and these are very important.

*Line 99: NO titration, add a reference. What is the situation in Spain as compared to other European countries such as France and Italy?* REPLY: Yes we added reference; This NO/NO<sub>2</sub> is widely accepted in Europe. We added: This trend to decrease the NO/NO<sub>2</sub> rate from diesel vehicle emissions (the main source of NO<sub>x</sub> in urban Europe) has been widely reported (i.e. Carslaw et al., 2016)

*Line 107: the urban areas are characterized by "VOC-limited" conditions, and a reduction in NOx emission increases the O3 formation.* REPLY, Yes we also gave this possibility in the original paper, but to make it more clear we added: We still do not know if this increase is due to a decrease in the NO titration effect or to the fact that the O<sub>3</sub> formation is by VOCs dominated, since the urban areas are characterized by 'VOC-limited' conditions, and a reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> emission might yield to an increase of the O<sub>3</sub> formation.

*Lines 112-116: too many references and autocitation, the state-of-the-art need to be enlarged (e.g. Italy, France, Portugal) and add a comparison + quantification of the spatio-temporal changes for surface ozone levels.* REPLY. OK we changed this focus on the whole Mediterranean and we added the references (but no auto-citation, no one paper of the main author of this paper is cited here). Now we stated: Intensive research on O<sub>3</sub> pollution has been carried out in the Mediterranean since the late 1980s, which has been key to understand the behaviour of this pollutant in Europe, and to establish the current air quality European standards (Millán et al., 1991, 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, 2000, 2002; Millán, 2002; Lelieveld 2002; EC, 2002, 2004; Millán and

Sanz, 1999; Mantilla et al., 1997; Salvador et al., 1997, 1999; Gangoiti et al., 2001; Stein et al., 2004, 2005; Chevalier et al., 2007; Kalabokas et al., 2008, 2015 and 2017; Castell et al., 2008a, 2008b, 2012; Kulkarni et al., 2011; Velchev et al., 2011; Doval et al., 2012; Sicard et al., 2013; Millán et al., 2014; Escudero et al., 2014; Zanis et al., 2014; Sicard et al., 2017; among others). EEA (2017) reports a clear gradient to increase the exceedances of the human protection 8-h O<sub>3</sub> target value in Southern and Central Europe, higher in the Italian Po Valley and Spain, and relatively lower in Portugal and the Eastern Mediterranean.

*Lines 124-127: to be reformulated.* REPLY: Done: Querol et al. (2017) reported that the high-O<sub>3</sub> plume transported from the metropolitan area of Barcelona contributed decisively to cause the frequent exceedances of the information threshold in the northern areas of Barcelona during the acute O<sub>3</sub> episodes in July 2015.

*Line 128: what are the scenarios?* REPLY: We modified the text: They also demonstrated that the meteorology associated was very complex, similar to the scenarios of vertical recirculation of air masses reported by.....

*Line 139: "lowpre-existing: : :", please explain.* REPLY: Modified to: .... low condensation sink potential (i.e. relatively clean atmospheres with low surface aerosol concentrations).

*Line 142: add the period of the study.* REPLY: Added.

*Materials & methods - The experimental protocol and methodology are consistent, well described. Even if this section is important, it can be shortened, e.g. lines 165-190: move to section "Discussion" and need to be shortened.* REPLY: Done. We still believe that the right place was the first description of the study area, but following requirements of the referee we moved to 'discussion' and shortened.

*Line 195: "highest levels of O<sub>3</sub>", how much?* REPLY: Added (with hourly maxima sporadically exceeding 180 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

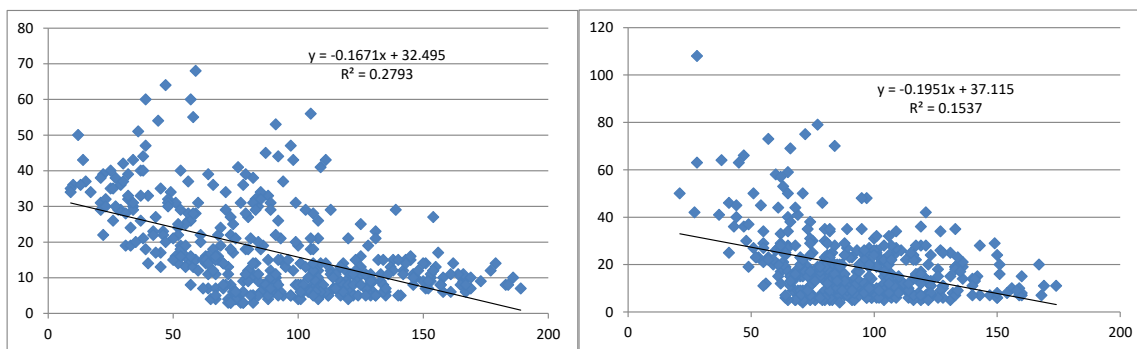
*Line 218: "very good results", please quantify (e.g. r<sup>2</sup>) this statement.* REPLY: Added to text (with R<sup>2</sup> reaching 0.65-0.98 and slopes 0.87-1.23, Minguillón et al., 2015).

*Results – Please avoid describing Figures (e.g. 260-262, 318-320), this is really heavy.* REPLY: Deleted in both cases.

*Lines 249-253: move to section "Materials & Methods".* Reply: Done

*Line 254: what is the correlation coefficient between NO<sub>2</sub> and ozone?* REPLY, below you have it for 2 of the sites having the highest O<sub>3</sub> (NO<sub>2</sub> is in Y, and O<sub>3</sub> in X),





*Lines 271-272: move to section "Discussion".* REPLY: We do not understand here what you mean, moving 2 lines breaks the explanation of this paragraph. We decided to keep them in.

*Lines 260-264: move to section "Materials & Methods".* REPLY: In a prior observation you suggested deleting this description and we did it. Now is only 2 lines well inserted in this section.

*Line 344: "high hourly O3 concentrations: ::"* REPLY: Corrected and added, thanks

*Lines 345-348: move to section "Discussion".* REPLY: Moved

*Lines 353-414: long section, boring, need to be shortened.* REPLY We reduced it by 60% by moving descriptions of the first 3 days of soundings to SI and synthesising the results in the main text.

*Line 441: "biogenic VOCs", please specify the source (e.g. isoprene).* REPLY: Added: The influence of aromatic VOCs on OFP rapidly decreases while the influence of biogenic VOCs (mostly isoprene followed by monoterpenes, as primary ones, and methacrolein, methyl-vinyl-ketone, isoprene-derived isomers of unsaturated hydroxy hydroperoxides (ISOPOOH) and methylglyoxal, as the main secondary species)...

*Lines 459-464: move to section "Results".* REPLY. This is one of the only two cases that we decided to keep the original text here because, this discussion is summarising the evolution of the UFP and O3 profiles across the day, If we move these 5 lines, we start description from midday here and we lose the early to midday scenarios.

*Line 468: titration by NO.* REPLY: Added, thanks

*Lines 487-495: to be reformulated, unclear.* REPLY: Re-written: During the whole month of July 2016 there was a clear veering of the urban plume from Madrid, with night plume transport towards SW (MJDH-San Martin de V., Figures 9 and S12), and towards NW, N-NE, and, in some cases, E-SE during the morning and midday, followed by the decoupling and onset of the evening and nocturnal flow towards SW. This veering seems to be causally associated with the high O3 levels recorded in the W to E areas surrounding northern Madrid, since the peak concentrations recorded by the official air quality network follow this spatial and temporal evolution (Figure S12) for the exceedances of the O3 information threshold.

*Lines 500-505: typical diurnal ozone concentrations, well documented in the literature, not innovative for ACP.* REPLY: Done, we delete it.

*Lines 506-5014: move to section “Results”.* **REPLY.** This is one of the two cases that we decided to keep the original text here because, this discussion is summarising the evolution of the UFP and O<sub>3</sub> profiles across the day.

*Lines 518-519: confusing compared to line 560, need to be reformulated.* **REPLY, thanks a lot, changed to:** Conversely, the lower development of the PBL on 14/07/2016 causing less surface UFP dilution and lower top-down contributions to O<sub>3</sub> to surface concentrations accounted for opposite O<sub>3</sub> and UFP the profiles.

*Lines 538-541: move to section “Results”. At high elevation, changes in the background tropospheric ozone can be attributed to to i) hemispheric background concentrations, in part due to the reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions; ii) the exchange between the free troposphere and the boundary layer and iii) the stratospheric inputs (Chevalier et al., 2007\_ACP, Kulkarni et al., 2011; Lefohn et al., 2012\_Atmospheric Environment; Sicard et al., 2016\_Environmental Research). The “stratospheric inputs” need to be discussed in this section, as well as exchanged between the lower stratosphere and free troposphere.* **REPLY:** Yes this was a weakness, thanks a lot. We added: In addition of the local O<sub>3</sub>, the background contribution can be also very relevant. At high elevation, changes in the background tropospheric O<sub>3</sub> can be attributed to to (i) hemispheric background concentrations; (ii) exchange between the free troposphere and the boundary layer; and (iii) stratospheric inputs (Chevalier et al., 2007; Kulkarni et al., 2011; Parrish et al., 2012, Lefohn et al., 2012; Kalabokas et al., 2013, 2015 and 2017; Zanis et al., 2014; Akritidis et al., 2016; Sicard et al., 2017). We also modified several parts to discuss these free-troposphere and stratospheric contributions. Examples are:

- Section 4. We added the following discussion: Considering the free sounding O<sub>3</sub> profiles in Figure 3, high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (>70 ppb) can be observed above the PBL, between 3000 and 5000 m a.s.l., which may be related to larger scale transport of pollutants, previously uplifted to the mid-troposphere or originated after a stratospheric intrusion and a subsequent deep subsidence into the middle troposphere, as it is probably the case based on the ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis data. Transport of high O<sub>3</sub> air masses in the middle troposphere, as for the 13/07/2016 in Figure 3, was also documented by Plaza et al. (1997) over this area in July 1994, during the final phase of a high O<sub>3</sub> period. More recently, Kalabokas et al. (2013, 2015, 2017), Zanis et al. (2014) and Akritidis et al. (2016), among others, have shown that similar transport processes of enriched O<sub>3</sub> layers at high altitude, can contribute to increase surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations during the summer in the Eastern Mediterranean. This transport has been associated with large scale subsidence within strong northerly winds in the Eastern Mediterranean (Etesian winds), and the affected layers are dryer than average and show negative temperature anomalies. Figure S11 shows the ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis together with the AEMET O<sub>3</sub> free soundings at Madrid airport for the 13/07/2016. The ridging at the lower troposphere over the Bay of Biscay at the rear of an upper-level trough (left panels) is accompanied by intense NW winds blowing at the middle and upper troposphere and NE winds at ground level and up to 2000 m (see the radiosonde profile in the same figure). The O<sub>3</sub> intrusion is associated to the upper-level trough (Sections A-A and B-B in the figure), and a large area of deep subsidence and extremely low relative humidity observed within the NW flows over Madrid and to the north of the Iberian Peninsula and the Bay of Biscay. High O<sub>3</sub> concentrations values and low relative humidity of the ERA-Interim profiles over the airport of Madrid (green and red dotted-lines in the panel “g” of the Figure S11) are in agreement with the radiosonde observations in the same panel.

The question now is how much of this O<sub>3</sub> could fumigate at ground level. According to the radiosonde data, the mixing height top was about 2000 m a.s.l. at midday, but could increase to about 3100 m a.s.l. after the projection of the surface temperature increase observed during the afternoon at near-by stations. This height reaches the lower part of the O<sub>3</sub> enriched layer originated in the tropopause folding. Thus, a certain impact seems likely. However, the O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were relatively low at all surface stations during that day, as it corresponds to a vented low O<sub>3</sub> period.

- A new figure S11 has been added and discussed to show the stratospheric intrusion following your suggestion.
- We added these two paragraphs in the conclusions:
  - The O<sub>3</sub> source apportionment is very complex, having contributions from local/regional and remote sources, including the stratosphere. The relative contributions of these might vary in time and space (e.g. Lefohn et al., 2014).
  - Climate change might reduce the benefits of the O<sub>3</sub> abatement policies (since hot waves increase O<sub>3</sub> episodes). This, as well as the measures and policies in Northern America and Asia, will need to be considered into future Europe policies for O<sub>3</sub> mitigation (Lefohn and Cooper, 2015; Sicard et al., 2017)
- And we modified the fourth as follows: In the MAB, during the highest O<sub>3</sub> (accumulation) episodes, in addition of the contribution (to surface concentrations) by fumigation of upper O<sub>3</sub> (from regional transport, hemispheric free troposphere O<sub>3</sub>, and intruded stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>, X in Figure 10), there is an added fraction produced locally and transported-recirculated within the MAB, which accumulates from one day to the next (Y in Figure 10).

*Conclusions – Line 587-588: climate change might reduce the benefits of the ozone control strategies. This can be discussed e.g. climate change and the measures and policies in North America or Asia will need to be considered into future ozone policies in Europe for ozone mitigation (Lefohn and Cooper, 2015\_Atmo Env; Sicard et al., 2017\_ACP).* **REPLY.** Yes, thanks for this key suggestion for this section on air quality policy. We added 2 bullets:

- The O<sub>3</sub> source apportionment is very complex, having contributions from local/regional and remote sources, including the stratosphere. The relative contributions of these might vary in time and space (e.g. Lefohn et al., 2014).
- Climate change might reduce the benefits of the O<sub>3</sub> abatement policies (since hot waves increase O<sub>3</sub> episodes). This, as well as the measures and policies in Northern America and Asia, will need to be considered into future Europe policies for O<sub>3</sub> mitigation (Lefohn and Cooper, 2015; Sicard et al., 2017)

*Line 612: a statement of ACP Special Issues (Lamarque et al., 2013\_ACP and Young et al. 2013\_ACP) with respect to the ACCMIP models can be done, or the validation of ACCMIP ozone simulations using sonde throughout the free troposphere and lower stratosphere for both seasonal and year-to-year variations of ozone (Kazuyuki Miyazaki and Kevin Bowman, 2017\_ACP).* **REPLY.** Yes we recognise we may add a bit on these inter-comparison exercises, but the number of tem is large, and come from different scientific-policy forums. **The we decided to insert this text: A good combination of regional/local scale modelling, able to reproduce horizontal/vertical re-circulations of air masses, and the behaviour of urban/industrial plumes in complex topography/meteorology; with modelling able to calculate contributions from long range transport, free troposphere, and**

stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>, will be needed to efficiently support policy (see v.g. the ACP special issue on the Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Model Inter-comparison Project, ACCMIP [https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/special\\_issue296.html](https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/special_issue296.html); the FAIRMODE initiative, Thunis et al., 2015; and the Monitoring Atmospheric Composition & Climate (MACC)).

#### *Grammatical suggestions and typos*

Lines 69, 88: PM 10 and 2.5 in subscript. **REPLY. Done, thanks**

Line 86: Monks et al., 2015 rather than 2014. **REPLY. Done, thanks**

Line 133: to be reformulated as “recorded in July” (a simpler way). **REPLY. Done, thanks**

Line 142: why did you put (and UFP) with brackets? **REPLY. Brackets deleted**

Line 188: Gómez-Moreno (hyphen) **REPLY. Added, thanks**

Some acronyms need to be defined e.g. lines 206, 215, 236 **REPLY. Defined there and some additional ones, thanks**

Line 206: 19 or 20 July, to be checked. **REPLY: It is 19/July, this finished one day before other instruments. Then we leaved it**

Line 442: “through the” (space). **REPLY: Corrected, thanks**

Line 444: remove all the text given in parentheses (really heavy). **REPLY: Deleted, thanks**

Line 475: McKendry and Lundgren (instead of “et al.”): **REPLY: Corrected, thanks**

Line 601: add a reference **REPLY: Added: according our calculations (Table S1 and Figure S1).**

#### *Tables & Figures*

There are too many figures, it would be necessary to select the most informative figures (5-6 maximum) and move the other to SI. **REPLY, as you will see we moved a number of them to SI.**

Please, change “altitude” as “elevation” in Figures and Tables when necessary. **REPLY: Done, thanks for observations and corrections**

Figures 7-10-11 can be joined. Too many Figures seem similar and not useful. **REPLY, We removed Figure 10 and 11 and inserted in the SI.**

Figure 1: put units (m) on X- and Y-axis and “elevation (a.s.l). **REPLY, corrected, many thanks**

Figure 3: how is possible to read variations of values, I don't see the units for each parameter (e.g. T, RH), please add a second Y-axis with units. **REPLY: We added a nex X axis for T as requested**

Figure 4: blurred. **REPLY: We made it again with higher resolution.**

Figure 13: units on Y-axis. **REPLY, done, thanks for the correction**

Table 1: add the station “El Retiro” and define the acronyms in caption (RH, Temp., UFP: : :) **REPLY, done, thanks for the correction**

Table 2: m (a.g.l). :) **REPLY, done, thanks for the correction**

#### *References*

Kulmala et al., 2000 (Line 702), Millán & Artíñano, 1992 (Line 725) &

Skrabalova et al., 2015 are missing. **REPLY, thanks a lot and sorry for these errors. We added cite in the first case and we deleted the 2 last ones.**

Line 766: Pujadas et al., the year is missing (2000). **REPLY. This reference was deleted due to the shortening of text, thank you**

Line 781: “et al.,” please supply the full author list. Please, read the advices in the guidelines for authors for the “list of references” (e.g. publication year, lines 787, 702) and consider a chronological order for the same author e.g. Millán. **REPLY, Thanks a lot for detecting these errors.**

**Revised all references.**

**END OF THE REPORT**

# 1 Phenomenology of summer ozone episodes over the Madrid 2 Metropolitan Area, Central Spain

3 Xavier Querol~~X~~<sup>1</sup>, Andrés Alastuey~~A~~<sup>1</sup>, Gotzon Gangoiti<sup>2</sup>, Noemí Perez<sup>1</sup>, Hong K. Lee<sup>3</sup>, Heeram  
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Con formato: Superíndice

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## 32 Abstract

33 Various studies have reported that photochemical nucleation of new ultrafine particles (UFP)  
34 in urban environments within high insolation regions occurs simultaneously with high ground  
35 ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) levels. In this work, we evaluate the atmospheric dynamics leading to summer O<sub>3</sub>  
36 episodes in the Madrid Air Basin (Central Iberia) by means of measuring a 3D distribution of  
37 concentrations for both pollutants. To this end, we obtained vertical profiles (up to 1200 m,  
38 above ground level) using tethered balloons and miniaturised instrumentation at a suburban  
39 site located to the SW of the Madrid Metropolitan Area (MMA), the Majadahonda site (MJDH)  
40 in July 2016. Simultaneously, measurements of an extensive number of air quality and  
41 meteorological parameters were carried out at 3 supersites across the MMA. Furthermore,  
42 data from O<sub>3</sub>-soundings and daily radio-soundings s were also used to interpret the atmospheric  
43 dynamics.

44 The results demonstrate the concatenation of venting and accumulation episodes, with  
45 relative O<sub>3</sub>-lows (venting) and peaks (accumulation) in O<sub>3</sub> surface levels. Regardless of the  
46 episode type, fumigation of high-altitude O<sub>3</sub>-rich layers (arising from a variety of origins)  
47 contributes to the major proportion of surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations. Accumulation episodes are  
48 characterised by a relatively thinner planetary boundary layer (PBL < 1500 m at midday, lower

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49 | in altitude than the orographic features), ~~low-light~~ synoptic winds and the development of  
50 | mountain breezes along the slope of the Guadarrama Mountain Range (~~located~~ W and NW of  
51 | MMA, ~~and with a~~ maximum ~~elevation~~ ~~altitude of~~ >2400 m ~~above sea level~~). This orographic-  
52 | meteorological setting causes the vertical recirculation of air masses and ~~the~~ enrichment of O<sub>3</sub>  
53 | in the lower tropospheric layers. When the highly polluted urban plume from Madrid is  
54 | affected by these dynamics, the highest O<sub>x</sub> (O<sub>3</sub>+NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations are recorded in the MMA.

55 | Vertical O<sub>3</sub> profiles during venting episodes, with ~~marked-strong~~ synoptic winds and a  
56 | deepening of the ~~planetary boundary layer~~ ~~PBL~~, reaching >2000 m above sea level, were  
57 | characterised by an upward gradient in O<sub>3</sub> levels, whereas ~~a reversed situation with low-~~  
58 | ~~altitude~~ O<sub>3</sub> concentration maxima ~~at lower levels, due to local/regional production was~~ ~~ere~~  
59 | found during the accumulation episodes ~~due to local/regional production~~. The two  
60 | contributions to O<sub>3</sub> surface levels (fumigation from high altitude strata and local/regional  
61 | production) require very different approaches for policy actions. In contrast to O<sub>3</sub> vertical top-  
62 | down transfer, UFP are formed in the lowest levels and are transferred upwards progressively  
63 | with the ~~growth~~ ~~increase of the planetary boundary layer~~ ~~of the PBL~~.

64

65 | **Keywords:** Ozone, ultrafine particles, photochemical pollution, air quality, vertical profiles.

66

## 67 | 1. Introduction

68 | The EU Directive 2008/50/EC ~~on ambient air quality~~, amended by Directive 2015/1480/EC, ~~on~~  
69 | ~~ambient air quality~~ establishes the need to comply with air quality standards to protect citizens  
70 | and ecosystems. If these are not met, plans to improve air quality must be implemented ~~by the~~  
71 | ~~national, regional, and local administrations~~. Despite the considerable improvements in air  
72 | quality during the last decade, non-compliance ~~s~~ with ~~the~~ European air quality standards ~~are~~ ~~is~~  
73 | still reported in most Europe. In particular the limit values for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>),  
74 | particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and tropospheric ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) target value are frequently  
75 | exceeded (~~EEA, 2017~~). Therefore, in 2013, the National Plan for Air Quality and Protection of  
76 | the Atmosphere (Plan AIRE) 2013-2016, was drawn up, and approved by the ~~Spanish~~ Council of  
77 | Ministers' Agreement of 12/04/2013.

78 | ~~The EEA (2017) recently reported that in 2015 80% of the urban EU-28 population was~~  
79 | ~~exposed to PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels exceeding the WHO guideline, and 90% to that of O<sub>3</sub>.~~

80 | Measures to effectively reduce NO<sub>2</sub> and ~~primary~~ PM pollution are relatively easy to identify  
81 | ~~(such as abating industrial, shipping, and traffic emissions with catalytic converters for NO<sub>x</sub> and~~  
82 | ~~particulate controls for PM)~~. However, defining policies for abating O<sub>3</sub>, other photochemical  
83 | pollutants, ~~and~~ the secondary components of PM is much more complex.

84 | Photochemical pollution is a subject of great environmental importance in Southern ~~(S)~~ Europe  
85 | due to its climatic and geographical characteristics (~~Ochoa-Hueso, 2017~~). ~~Sub-p~~Products of this  
86 | type of ~~pollution~~ ~~contamination~~ are many, ~~the most~~ noteworthy ~~being~~ tropospheric O<sub>3</sub>,  
87 | secondary PM (nitrate, sulphate, ~~and~~ secondary organic compounds), and the generation of  
88 | new ultra-fine particles (UFP<sub>s</sub>) by nucleation (Gomez-Moreno et al., 2011; ~~Brines et al., 2015~~).

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89 In summer, the Western Mediterranean Basin (WMB), surrounded by high mountains, falls  
90 under the influence of the semipermanent Azores anticyclone. Clear skies prevail under a  
91 generalized level of subsidence aloft, and meso-meteorological processes with marked diurnal  
92 cycles dominate. Re-circulation, strong insolation and stability in the upper layers favour the  
93 production/accumulation of O<sub>3</sub> (Millán et al., 1997, 2000, 2002; Kalabokas et al., 2008;  
94 Giannakopoulos et al., 2009; Velchev et al., 2011; Sicard et al., 2013), and the emissions of  
95 biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) (Giannakopoulos et al., 2009).  
96

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97 The abatement of tropospheric O<sub>3</sub> levels in this region is a difficult challenge due to its origin,  
98 which may be local, regional and/or transboundary (Millán et al., 2000; Millán 2014; Lelieveld  
99 et al., 2002; -and Kalabokas et al., 2008, 2013, 2015, 2017; Velchev et al., 2011; Sicard et al.,  
100 2013; Zanis et al., 2014; Millán, 2014), the complexity of the meteorological scenarios leading to  
101 severe episodes (Millán et al., 1997; Gangoiti et al., 2001; -i Dieguez et al., 2009, -and 2014;  
102 Kalabokas et al., 2017-and Millán, 2014), as well as the complexity of the non-linear chemical  
103 processes that drive its formation and sinks, which are not linear in many cases (Monks et al.,  
104 2015, and references therein).

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105 This complex context has led to a lack of 'sufficient' O<sub>3</sub> abatement in Spain (and Europe); while  
106 for primary pollutants, such as SO<sub>2</sub> and CO, and the primary fractions of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> the  
107 improvement has been very evident (EEA, 20176). Thus, the latest air quality assessment for  
108 Europe (EEA, 20176) shows that: i) there has been a tendency for the peak O<sub>3</sub> concentration  
109 values (those exceeding the hourly information threshold of 180 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) -to decrease in ~~the~~  
110 recent years, ~~but-although~~ not enough to meet the WHO guidelines and EC standards; and ii)  
111 the problem of O<sub>3</sub> episodes is more pronounced in the South than in Northern and Central  
112 Europe. Likewise, O<sub>3</sub> levels are higher in rural than in urban areas, both due to i) the  
113 generation process, which requires time since the emissions of urban, industrial and biogenic  
114 precursors to the production of O<sub>3</sub>; and ii) the consumption (NO titration) of O<sub>3</sub> that takes  
115 place in urban areas.

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116 both due to the generation process, which requires time since the emission of urban, industrial  
117 and biogenic precursors, and the consumption (NO titration) of O<sub>3</sub> that takes place in urban  
118 areas.

119 Apart from this EEA report, ~~o~~Other recent studies such as Sicard et al. (2013), Paoletti et al.  
120 (2014), EMEP (2016), Escudero et al., (2014), ~~i~~ Garcia et al., (2014), ~~and~~ Querol et al. (2014, ~~and~~  
121 2016), ~~and~~ EMEP (2016), also evidenced that there is a general tendency for O<sub>3</sub> to increase in  
122 urban areas, including at traffic sites, probably due to the greater relative reduction of NO  
123 emissions relative compared to NO<sub>2</sub>, and therefore, ~~to~~ at the lower NO titration effect. This  
124 trend in decreasing the NO/NO<sub>2</sub> ratio ~~se~~ from diesel vehicle emissions (the main source of NO<sub>x</sub>  
125 in urban Europe) has been widely reported (i.e. Carslaw et al., 2016). It ~~has also~~ been also  
126 found ~~also~~ that regional background O<sub>3</sub> levels have remained constant over the last 15 years,  
127 ~~but-while~~ acute episodes have been drastically reduced compared to the late 1990s, although  
128 ~~and~~ these markedly increase during heat waves such as those in the summers of 2003 and  
129 2015 (EEA, 20176; ~~i~~ Dieguez et al., 2009, ~~and~~ 2014; ~~i~~ and Querol et al., 2016).

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130 A recent study (Saiz-Lopez et al., 2017) reported that an increase of 30-40% in ambient air O<sub>3</sub>  
131 levels, along with a decrease of 20-40% in NO<sub>2</sub> from 2007 to 2014 in Madrid, which may have

132 led to a large concentration increases of up to 70% and 90% in OH and NO<sub>3</sub> (the main  
133 tropospheric oxidants), respectively, thereby changing the oxidative capacity of this urban  
134 atmosphere (Saiz Lopez et al., 2017). We still do not know if this increase is due to a decrease  
135 in the effect of NO titration effect or to the fact that the O<sub>3</sub> formation is by volatile organic  
136 compounds (VOCs) dominated by VOCs since the urban areas are characterized by 'VOC-  
137 limited' conditions, and a reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> emission might yield an increase in O<sub>3</sub> formation.

138 Intensive research on O<sub>3</sub> pollution has been carried out in the Mediterranean since the late  
139 1980s in the Western Mediterranean, which and has been key to in understanding the  
140 behaviour of this pollutant in Europe. It has also been used, and to establish the current air  
141 quality European air quality standards (Millán et al., 1991, 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, 2000, 2002;  
142 Millán, 2002; Lelieveld 2002; EC, 2002, 2004; Millán and Sanz, 1999; Mantilla et al., 1997;  
143 Salvador et al., 1997, 1999; Gangoiti et al., 2001; Stein et al., 2004, 2005; Chevalier et al.,  
144 2007; Doval et al., 2012; Kalabokas et al., 2008, 2015, 2017; Castell et al., 2008a, 2008b, 2012;  
145 Kulkarni et al., 2011; Velchev et al., 2011; Doval et al., 2012; Sicard et al., 2013; Millán et al.,  
146 2014; Escudero et al., 2014; Zanis et al., 2014; Sicard et al., 2017, among others). The EEA  
147 (2017) reports a clear increase in exceedances of the human protection 8-h O<sub>3</sub> target value in  
148 Southern and Central Europe, with a which are higher degree in the Italian Po Valley and Spain,  
149 and a relatively lower one in Portugal and the Eastern Mediterranean.

150 Focusing on the study area, Diéguez et al. (2009, and 2014) described in detail the temporal  
151 and spatial variation of O<sub>3</sub> levels in Spain. These studies highlight the low inter-annual  
152 variability in regional background stations, as well as the existence of specific areas, such as  
153 the Madrid air basin (MAB), Northern valleys influenced by the Barcelona urban plume,  
154 Puertollano basin, and or the interior of the Valencian region, where very high O<sub>3</sub> episodes are  
155 relatively frequent, and point to urban and industrial hot spots as relevant sources of  
156 precursors. Recently, Querol et al. (2016) evidenced that the highest O<sub>3</sub> episodes, with hourly  
157 exceedances of the information threshold for informing to the population (180 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) for  
158 during 2000-2015 occurred mostly around these densely populated or industrialised areas.

159 Querol et al. (2017) reported that the load of the high-O<sub>3</sub> plume transported from and  
160 precursors from the plume of the metropolitan area of Barcelona contributed decisively to  
161 cause the frequent exceedances of the information threshold in the northern areas of  
162 Barcelona during the acute O<sub>3</sub> episodes in July 2015. They also demonstrated that the  
163 associated meteorology associated was very complex, similar to the scenarios of vertical  
164 recirculation of air masses scenarios reported by Gangoiti et al. (2001), Millán (2014) and  
165 Diéguez et al. (2014) for other regions of the Western Mediterranean. Regional transport of O<sub>3</sub>  
166 is also very relevant, as well as acute O<sub>3</sub> episodes, which exceeded the information threshold  
167 and were caused largely by regional transport (with large a contribution also from local  
168 formation recirculated during prior days, on top of which an additional smaller local 'fresh'  
169 contribution was added). It is also shown that the vast majority of these exceedances are  
170 recorded in July and that acute O<sub>3</sub> episodes, exceeding the information threshold, were caused  
171 by a dominant regional transport contribution (also with high contributions from local  
172 formation recirculated during prior days) to O<sub>3</sub>, on top of which an additional smaller local  
173 'fresh' contribution was added. It was also shown that the vast majority of these exceedances  
174 are recorded in in the month of July of the respective years.

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175 In the Eastern Mediterranean, the regional background O<sub>3</sub> levels in the free troposphere and  
176 the boundary layer during summer might regularly exceed 60 ppb, and fumigation of these  
177 upper air masses contributes, on average, to the greatest part of the surface O<sub>3</sub> levels  
178 measured in Greece (Kalabokas et al., 2000; Kourtidis et al., 2002; Kouvarakis et al., 2002;  
179 Lelieveld et al., 2002; Kalabokas and Repapis, 2004; Gerasopoulos et al., 2005). Furthermore, a  
180 number of studies report contributions from the stratosphere to the surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations  
181 during specific meteorological scenarios in the same region (Kalabokas et al., 2013, 2015;  
182 Zanis et al., 2014; Parrish et al., 2012; Lefohn et al., 2012; Akritidis et al., 2016, among  
183 others). In addition, recent research shows that, during springtime O<sub>3</sub> episodes (April – May)  
184 over the WMB, similar synoptic meteorological patterns might also occur, and that these are  
185 linked with regional episodes, mainly induced by large-scale tropospheric O<sub>3</sub> subsidence,  
186 influencing the boundary layer as well as the ground surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (Kalabokas et  
187 al., 2017). However, the most intense episodes in the WMB occur in June-July, according to the  
188 statistics for the 2000-2015 period in Spain presented by Querol et al. (2016).

189 In addition to ~~the~~ primary emissions, nucleation or new particle formation (NPF) processes  
190 give rise to relevant contributions to the urban ambient air UFP concentrations, mostly during  
191 photochemical pollution episodes in spring and summer (Brines et al., 2015, and references  
192 therein). Ambient conditions favouring urban NPF are high insolation, low relative humidity,  
193 available SO<sub>2</sub> and VOCs, as well as low ~~pre-existing condensation sink potential (particle~~  
194 ~~surface area (low condensation sink), i.e., a relatively clean atmosphere with low surface aerosol~~  
195 ~~concentrations), common features that enhance new particle formation events) (Kulmala et~~  
196 ~~al., 2000, 2004; Kulmala and Kerminen, 2008; Sipilä et al., 2010; Salma et al., 2016).~~

197 In this study, we evaluate the temporal and spatial variability of O<sub>3</sub> ~~(and UFP)~~ in the ~~MA~~Madrid  
198 city/basin (04-20/07/2016), to investigate the causes of acute summer episodes of both  
199 pollutants, and ~~to investigate~~ possible inter-relationships. In a subsequent twin article, we will  
200 focus on the phenomenology of UFP nucleation episodes linked with these photochemical  
201 events. Data on UFPs are included in this paper only where they assist in interpreting the  
202 behaviour of O<sub>3</sub>.

203

## 204 **2. Methodology**

### 205 **2.1. The study area**

206 The ~~Madrid air basin~~MAB and the Madrid Metropolitan Area (MMA) are located in the central  
207 plain, or Meseta, of the Iberian Peninsula at around 700 m above sea level (m a.s.l.) a.s.l.  
208 Regarding the topographic features, the Guadarrama range, which runs in the NE-SW  
209 direction, reaches heights of up to 2400 m a.s.l. and is located 40 km north from the MMA. To  
210 the S, are the Toledo Mountains which run from E to W (Figure 1). Lower mountains, ~~are also~~  
211 located to the NE and E, ~~which~~ are part of the Iberian range. Consequently, the Madrid plain  
212 shows a NE-SW channelling of winds, forced by the main mountain ranges, ~~and~~ following the  
213 basin of the Tagus River and its tributaries. In particular, the MMA is located to the NE of the  
214 river basin and ~~on at~~ its right E side.

215 Climatologically, the area is characterised by continental conditions with hot summers and  
216 cold winters with both seasons typically being dry. Mean annual precipitation of around

217 | approximately 400 mm is mainly concentrated in the autumn and spring. The MMA is one of  
218 | the most densely populated regions in Spain, with more than 5 million inhabitants, including  
219 | Madrid City and surrounding towns. According to Salvador et al. (2015), the main  
220 | anthropogenic emissions are dominated by road traffic and residential heating (in winter),  
221 | with minor contributions from industry and a large airport.

222 | Figure 2 shows the time series of the recorded meteorology, measured at a surface station  
223 | representative of the conditions in the MMA during the field campaign of July 2016 (El Retiro,  
224 | in central Madrid). In order to put the field campaign into the context of the more general  
225 | meteorological situation, the time series is extended backwards to the end of June and  
226 | forward to the end of July 2016. Figure 2 also shows the corresponding time series of for O<sub>3</sub>,  
227 | NO<sub>2</sub>, and O<sub>x</sub> concentrations in the MMA, demonstrating the occurrence of well-marked peaks  
228 | alternating with relatively low O<sub>3</sub> and O<sub>x</sub> concentrations periods. The intensive field campaign  
229 | (11-14/07/2016, marked with a green frame) coincides with a low O<sub>3</sub> interval preceding a  
230 | higher O<sub>3</sub> period in the last two days. ~~red~~ Red and blue frames in Figure 2 show days in which  
231 | high-resolution O<sub>3</sub> free soundings were performed (red and blue ~~indicate~~ indicating  
232 | intervals within high and low O<sub>3</sub>, respectively).

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## 234 | 2.2. Monitoring sites and instrumentation

235 | To characterise acute summer episodes of O<sub>3</sub> and UFP and to investigate their possible  
236 | relationships, we devised an intensive field campaign in the MMA. Three measurement  
237 | supersites in and around Madrid, following a WNW direction, according to the previously  
238 | described dynamics, were deployed in an area where the highest levels of O<sub>3</sub> (with hourly  
239 | maxima sporadically exceeding 180 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) are usually recorded (Reche et al., 2018, ~~7~~  
240 | submitted) inside the Madrid basin/MAB (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the equipment available at  
241 | the three following supersites:

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- 242 | • Madrid-CSIC, located at the Spanish National Research Council headquarters. This site is  
243 | located in central Madrid on the sixth floor of the building of the Instituto de Ciencias  
244 | Agrarias.
- 245 | • CIEMAT, located at the Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y  
246 | Tecnológicas headquarters, ~~at~~ 4 km in a WNW direction from the CSIC site in a suburban  
247 | area.
- 248 | • MJDH-ISCI, located in the Instituto de Salud Carlos III in Majadahonda, ~~at~~ 15 km in a NW  
249 | direction from the CSIC site.

250 | At MJDH-ISCI, a PTR-ToF-MS (Proton Transfer Reaction-Time of Fly-Mass Spectrometry)  
251 | was deployed from 04 to 19/07/2017 and provides insights into the O<sub>3</sub> Formation  
252 | Potential (OFP) of the VOC mixture over the MMA area. The operation procedure of the PTR-  
253 | ToF-MS and OFP calculation are detailed in Table S1 and Figure S1.

254 | Furthermore, from 11 to 14/07/2016, 28 profiles of pollutant and meteorological parameters  
255 | up to 1200 m above ground level (m a.g.l.) ~~a.g.l.~~ were obtained using tethered balloons and a  
256 | fast winch system (Figure S1, Tables 2). The instrumentation attached to the balloons is  
257 | summarised in Table 1. The profiles were performed at the Majadahonda Rugby Course

258 (MJDH-RC Figure 1). The balloons were equipped with a Global Position System (GPS) and ~~asa~~  
259 set of ~~the~~ instruments (Figure S3), including:

- 260 • A miniaturized CPC (~~Condensation Particle Counter built by~~ Hy-CPC, Hanyang University,  
261 Hy-CPC) was used to measure the number concentration of particles larger than 3 nm  
262 (PN<sub>3</sub>) with a time resolution of 1 s and a flow rate of 0.125 L/min, using butanol as a  
263 working fluid (Lee et al., 2014). Previous inter-comparison studies with conventional CPCs  
264 have yielded very good results (with  $r^2$  reaching 0.65-0.98 and slopes 0.87-1.23,  
265 Minguillon et al., 2015). In this work, we will use the terms UFP and PN3 as equivalents,  
266 but we measure concentrations between 3 and 1000 nm strictly while UFP is <100 nm.  
267 However, 80% of the total particle concentration falls in the range of UFPs.
- 268 • An ~~PO3M~~ O<sub>3</sub> monitor (PO3M, 2B Technologies) was used to determine O<sub>3</sub> concentrations.  
269 It was calibrated against an ultraviolet spectrometry reference analyser showing good  
270 agreement (n=34; PO3MO<sub>3</sub>=1.1058\*RefO<sub>3</sub>+4.41, R<sup>2</sup>=0.93). Concentrations (on 10 s basis)  
271 are reported in standard conditions (20 °C and 101.3 kPa) and corrected for the reference  
272 method.

273 In addition to the above instrumentation, we obtained the following additional meteorological  
274 and air quality data:

- 275 • Meteorological data from the CIEMAT meteorological tower (four instrumented levels  
276 between surface and 54 m a.g.l.), as well as from several AEMET (Spanish Met Office)  
277 standard meteorological stations spread out across the basin: Madrid Airport (40.46°N,  
278 3.56°W, 609 m a.s.l), Colmenar Viejo (40.69°N, 3.76°W, 994 m a.s.l), and El Retiro (in  
279 Madrid, 40.40°N, 3.67°W, 667 m a.s.l).
- 280 • Hourly data for air pollutants (NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) supplied by the air  
281 quality networks of the city of Madrid, the Regional Governments of Madrid, Castilla ~~La~~  
282 Mancha, Castilla y Leon, and the EMEP European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme  
283 (EMEP) monitoring network, all of them supplied by the National Air Quality Database of  
284 the Ministry of the Environment of Spain (MAPAMA), ~~supplied by the National Air Quality~~  
285 ~~Database of the Ministry of the Environment of Spain (MAPAMA)~~.
- 286 • High-resolution O<sub>3</sub>-sounding data performed by AEMET at midday each Wednesday at  
287 Madrid Airport.
- 288 • High-resolution meteorological sounding data obtained each day at 00:00 and 12:00 h  
289 local time by AEMET also at Madrid Airport. They were used to estimate the height of the  
290 planetary boundary layer (PBL) at 12:00 UTC by means of the simple parcel method  
291 (Pandolfi et al., 2014).

292 Hourly averaged wind components were calculated and used in polar plots with hourly PM<sub>1</sub>,  
293 PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>x</sub> (O<sub>3</sub>+NO<sub>2</sub>), BC<sub>2</sub> and UFP concentrations, by means of the OpenAir R package  
294 (Carslaw and Ropkins, 2012).

## 295 3. Results

### 297 3.1. Meteorological context

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298 The AEMET O<sub>3</sub>-soundings are represented in Figure 3, ~~where it is evident that together with~~  
299 ~~the maps of the 500 hPa geopotential heights (gph in metres) and the MSLP (mean sea level~~  
300 ~~pressure, in mb) contours at 12:00 UTC obtained from the Climate Forecast System (CFS)~~  
301 ~~reanalysis (Saha et al., 2014) downloaded from <http://www.wetterzentrale.de/>.~~ The low/high  
302 O<sub>3</sub> periods coincide with the 500 hPa gph passage of, respectively, upper level troughs/ridges  
303 over the area, associated with cold/warm deep advection of air masses. Cold advectons have  
304 usually an Atlantic origin.

305 The local meteorology during the field campaign was characterized by a progressive drop  
306 in ~~temperature (-T)~~ (-4°C in the maximal daily T) and an increase in the early morning ~~relative~~  
307 ~~humidity (RH)~~ (+20%), with insolation remaining constant (maxima of 900-950 W/m<sup>2</sup>) (Figure  
308 4). During the nocturnal and early morning conditions of the first half of the field campaign  
309 (11-12/07/2016), relatively weak northerly winds prevailed at the main meteorological surface  
310 stations inside the basin, including CIEMAT in Figure 4, and Retiro and Colmenar in Figure ~~5~~~~4~~.  
311 This is probably related ~~with to~~ drainage (katabatic) conditions inside the ~~Madrid basin~~~~MAB~~,  
312 with a progressive turn to a more synoptic westerly component in the central period of the  
313 day, consistent with a convective coupling with the more intense upper level wind. This  
314 coupling is also accompanied by an important increase ~~of in~~ the wind speed at midday, up to 8  
315 m/s (venting stage), that renewed air masses in the whole basin.

316 During the second half of the campaign, intense and persistent north-easterly winds replaced  
317 the westerlies from the evening of 12/07/2016 ~~on~~, after the evolution of the upper level  
318 trough. In contrast to the previous period, during 13-14/07/2016, night-time and early  
319 morning conditions registered more intense NE winds (up to 10 m/s) than at midday, after a  
320 decrease in intensity down to calm conditions (1 m/s) during the 12/07 morning, facilitating  
321 both fumigation from upper levels and local O<sub>3</sub> photochemical production. A weak wind  
322 veering to the south was also registered at the mentioned surface stations during the 13/07  
323 afternoon, which lasted ~~only for only~~ 3 hours, and which is more characteristic of an O<sub>3</sub>  
324 enrichment episode, when the veering lasted longer (Plaza et al., 1997). A progressive  
325 decrease of the PBL height (-600 m difference) is observed in the AEMET daily radio-soundings  
326 ~~, in particular, that showed a~~ gradual decrease of the midday PBL height, ~~with of~~ 3400, 2200,  
327 1900, and 1600 m a.s.l. from 11 to 14/07/2016, (Figure ~~S5~~~~3~~) ~~were observed~~. This decrease is  
328 also observed in the 12 and 14/07/2017 UFP profiles (Figures ~~5 and 6 and S6-S8~~~~7-9, 11~~). As will  
329 be detailed later these meteorological patterns allowed O<sub>3</sub> and UFP to smoothly and  
330 progressively accumulate in the basin (Figure 4) during the campaign.

331 In the vertical dimension, during both ~~the~~ high and low O<sub>3</sub> periods analysed here, all the  
332 soundings show at midday two well-defined layers separated by a temperature inversion  
333 marking the limit of the growing convection inside the PBL (Figure 3).

334 In high O<sub>3</sub> periods (6 and 27/07/2016), we found lower PBL heights (approximately 1300-1500  
335 m a.s.l.), with weak winds from the E or NE (less than 4-5 m/s) or calm conditions. This is  
336 consistent with the scheme proposed by Plaza et al., (1997), who also described a rapid  
337 evolution of the PBL height up to 2500-3000 m a.s.l. at 15:00 UTC during their field campaigns  
338 in the area under "summer anticyclonic conditions": They also described a morning radiative  
339 surface inversion at around 1000 m a.s.l., which was usually "destroyed 1 hour after dawn",  
340 ~~and~~ containing NE winds associated with nocturnal drainage flows at lower levels (following

341 | the slope of the ~~Madrid basin~~MAB). In this context, residual layers containing pollutants  
342 | processed during the previous day(s) can develop above the stably stratified surface layer  
343 | during night-time conditions. These pollutants can be transported towards the S by weak  
344 | north-easterly winds, or ~~either~~ remain stagnant under calm conditions, ~~and which~~ leads to  
345 | fumigation and mixing with fresh pollutants emitted at the surface after the destabilization of  
346 | the surface layer, as we evidenced in our profiles. These residual layers are topped by the  
347 | subsidence anticyclonic inversion (1000-1500 m a.s.l.) according to Plaza et al. (1997).

348 | Conversely, the soundings corresponding to low O<sub>3</sub> periods have in common more elevated  
349 | PBL heights (2000-2500 m a.s.l.) with more intense winds (above 6-7 m/s) that can blow from  
350 | different sectors: from the NE, on ~~the~~ 13/07/2016 (with intense N-Westerlies blowing in the  
351 | free troposphere), or ~~from~~ the S-SW, as observed ~~on the on~~ 29/06/2016 and 20/07/2016. The  
352 | O<sub>3</sub> sounding on 13/07/2016, a unique day within the field campaign, presents the final stage  
353 | of a low O<sub>3</sub> period, with winds in the free troposphere ~~with having~~ a clear NW component  
354 | while channelled north-easterly winds dominate below 2000 m a.s.l. ~~The decrease of surface~~  
355 | ~~temperature observed in Figure 2 during the field campaign, is also consistent with the cold~~  
356 | ~~advection associated with the troughing in the 500 hPa heights. The AEMET free-sounding~~  
357 | ~~shows low O<sub>3</sub> surface concentrations (<45 ppb) and high levels (>70 ppb) in the middle~~  
358 | ~~troposphere (3000-5000 m a.s.l.), associated with very low relative humidity and with intense~~  
359 | ~~W to NW winds blowing at that height, which will be discussed in Section 4. The decrease of~~  
360 | ~~surface temperature observed in Figure 2 during the field campaign is also consistent with the~~  
361 | ~~cold advection associated with the troughing in the 500 hPa heights (13/07/2016 in Figure 3).~~

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362

### 363 | 3.2. Surface O<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>x</sub> and UFP during the field campaign

364 | ~~Figure 4 shows the time-series of meteorological parameters (CIEMAT tower), NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, O<sub>3</sub>, BC~~  
365 | ~~and UFP concentrations at Madrid-CSIC, Madrid-CIEMAT and MJDH-ISCIII, as well as at MJDH-~~  
366 | ~~RC, for the period 11-15/07/2016. As previously stated, the field campaign was characterised~~  
367 | ~~by atmospheric venting conditions with the two last~~ ~~ttter~~ days ~~being marking in the~~ a transitional  
368 | period to a more stable anticyclonic episode of increasing O<sub>3</sub>. The lowering of the wind speed  
369 | during diurnal periods, and other meteorological features mentioned above, favoured the  
370 | gradual accumulation of pollutants, as indicated by the progressive increase of the O<sub>3</sub> maxima  
371 | at MJDH-ISCIII, where the O<sub>3</sub> maximum was reached at 15:00 UTC on 13/07/2016 and at 17:00  
372 | UTC on 14/07/2016 (Figure 4). The typical accumulation O<sub>3</sub> cycle for the zone was found only  
373 | on 13 and 14/07/2016, with a maximum at 14:00 UTC on 13/07/2016 and at 16:00 UTC on  
374 | 14/07/2016. The two previous days presented a more irregular daily pattern, indicating  
375 | unstable and atypical situations for July (~~perturbed conditions with the prevalence of the~~  
376 | ~~synoptic winds~~ (~~perturbed conditions with prevalence of the synoptic winds~~). Furthermore,  
377 | these meteorological conditions and the high insolation induced the concatenation of  
378 | ~~nucleation~~NPF episodes in the basin (with low BC and very high UFP levels at the central hours  
379 | of the day), such as the one on 13/07/2016 (Figure S95). ~~Morning-midday UFP bursts were~~  
380 | ~~caused by nucleation and growth episodes (-As previously stated, in a twin article we will~~  
381 | ~~focus on the phenomenology and the vertical occurrence of these nucleation-growth events in~~  
382 | ~~the twin article).~~

383 From 11 to 12/07/2016 the highest concentrations of O<sub>3</sub> were recorded for W-SW and W  
384 winds, and peak UFP (PN<sub>3</sub>) concentrations were observed with W, SW, WNW, and NE winds;  
385 ~~however~~ However, on 13-14/07/2016, both O<sub>3</sub> and UFP concentrations maximized during calm  
386 and NE winds (see polar plots from Figure S106). PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels were independent of the UFP and  
387 O<sub>3</sub> variation, with concentrations increasing in calm situations in the first two days, and with  
388 less pronounced variations as a function of the wind direction, but somewhat higher  
389 concentrations with NE winds in the last two days (Figure S10).

390 ~~In Figure S5 the evidence for the occurrence of a NPF episode on 13/07/2016 is shown.~~  
391 ~~Morning-midday UFP bursts were caused by nucleation and growth episodes. As previously~~  
392 ~~stated, in a twin article we will focus on the phenomenology and the vertical occurrence of~~  
393 ~~these nucleation-growth events.~~

### 394 3.3. Vertical O<sub>3</sub> and UFP profiles during the field campaign

395 ~~Considering the O<sub>3</sub> profiles in Figure 3, high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (greater than 70 ppb) can be~~  
396 ~~observed above the PBL, between 3000 and 5000 m a.s.l., which may be related to larger scale~~  
397 ~~transport of pollutants previously uplifted to the mid-troposphere. However, at lower levels~~  
398 ~~(inside the PBL) the higher concentrations correspond to the accumulation days (06 and~~  
399 ~~27/07/2016). As will be demonstrated in this section, O<sub>3</sub> concentrations within the PBL~~  
400 ~~increase throughout the day under all atmospheric conditions due to fumigation from the~~  
401 ~~residual layer, and new O<sub>3</sub> formation from fresh precursors emitted at night time and through~~  
402 ~~the day. However, larger increases of O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were registered on poorly ventilated~~  
403 ~~days.~~

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404 As shown in Figure S2 and Table 2, the vertical profiles for 14/07/2016 were the most  
405 complete of the campaign (wind speed was relatively low and this allowed extended  
406 measurements ~~along throughout~~ the day), and for that reason we begin with the description  
407 of ~~a~~ this day.

408 Figure 7-5 shows that there is a rapid growth of the PBL between 08:05 and 11:01 h UTC, as  
409 deduced from the vertical profile of UFP (PN<sub>3-300</sub>) concentrations. At the beginning of the  
410 measurements the upper limit of the PBL was above 1030 m a.s.l., and in 2 h 40 min it ~~was~~  
411 lifted 400 m (around 2.5 m/min). In this initial period, the vertical profile of O<sub>3</sub> was  
412 characterized by a succession of strata of different concentrations, but ~~with~~ a clear tendency  
413 to increase ~~with towards height higher altitudes elevations~~ (around 20 ppb of difference  
414 between surface level and 1950 m a.s.l. was observed). The discontinuity of the PBL ceiling  
415 reflected in the UFP, T and RH profiles did not seem to affect ~~at all~~ the O<sub>3</sub> profile ~~at all~~. In other  
416 words, we did not notice accumulation of O<sub>3</sub> layers in the top of the PBL, but, ~~instead,~~ a  
417 general ~~increasing~~ trend ~~to increase~~ towards the highest altitudes reached with the tethered  
418 balloons.

419 Through the course of the day, the profile of concentrations of UFP and O<sub>3</sub> became  
420 homogenous in the lowest 1200 m a.g.l. (this being the maximum height reached), and a  
421 growth of O<sub>3</sub> concentrations at all altitudes was observed until 16:11 h UTC. This  
422 homogenisation and growth of O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in the PBL, caused by intense mixing by  
423 convection, resulted in ~~a~~ an uneven ~~growth-increase~~ through the day with an increase of 43  
424 ppb at surface and only 10 ppb at 1900 m a.s.l. (Figures 5 and S68).

425 | Figure 9-6 shows the results from measurements taken at a fixed height (1400-1200 m a.s.l.)  
426 | made to capture the effect of the growth of the PBL on O<sub>3</sub> and UFP levels. We started at  
427 | ~~around-approximately~~ 700 m a.g.l. at 09:32 UTC, with 60 ppb of O<sub>3</sub> and ~~around-approximately~~  
428 | 6000 #/cm<sup>3</sup>. At 10:25 UTC the top of the PBL reached the balloon, as deduced from the sharp  
429 | increase in UFP concentrations (up to 20000 #/cm<sup>3</sup>). Meanwhile, O<sub>3</sub> concentrations  
430 | ~~experimented-experienced~~ only a slight decrease, suggesting that O<sub>3</sub> fluxes are top down and  
431 | not bottom up, as recorded for UFP. From 16:11 h UTC onwards, a reduction of O<sub>3</sub> levels at  
432 | lower heights was observed (-50 ppb at surface levels from 15:55 to 17:45 h UTC, while at  
433 | 1900 m a.s.l. levels remained stable, Figures 5 and 8S6).

434 | ~~The first balloon flight on 13/07/2016 was performed at 10:45 UTC because earlier the wind~~  
435 | ~~speed was too high (Figure 10). At that time the top of the PBL had developed beyond the~~  
436 | ~~maximum height reached with the tethered balloons, so in the profile above 1100 m a.g.l. a~~  
437 | ~~very homogeneous concentration was detected. At this time on 14/07/2016 the upper bound~~  
438 | ~~of the PBL was perfectly identifiable in the UFP vertical profile over 700 m a.g.l., thus the~~  
439 | ~~growth of the PBL was faster on 13/07/2016 than on 14/07/2016. Similarly to 14/07/2016, the~~  
440 | ~~13/07/2016 O<sub>3</sub> profiles were characterised by a progressive increase of concentrations with~~  
441 | ~~height (more accentuated in different strata). The profiles started with concentrations close to~~  
442 | ~~40 ppb O<sub>3</sub> at the surface, and reached 83 ppb at the upper heights. As occurred on~~  
443 | ~~14/07/2016, through the course of the day surface concentrations increased differentially with~~  
444 | ~~respect to the upper layers, to almost homogenize concentrations in the whole profile~~  
445 | ~~(between 68 and 80 ppb at all heights at 15:00 UTC).~~

446 | ~~In Figure 11 it can be observed that similar results to those described for UFP profiles on the~~  
447 | ~~14/07/2016 were found on 12/07/2016 (upwards growth of the top of the PBL from the early~~  
448 | ~~morning):~~

- 449 | ~~• Around 700 m a.g.l. at 07:30 UTC (5000 #/cm<sup>3</sup> surface concentrations, 2000 #/cm<sup>3</sup> at the~~  
450 | ~~top of the PBL, and 900 #/cm<sup>3</sup> in the free troposphere).~~
- 451 | ~~• Around 900 m a.g.l. at 09:00 UTC (9000, 5000 and 2000 #/cm<sup>3</sup> for the above three levels).~~
- 452 | ~~• Above 1200 m a.g.l. (this being the maximum measurement height) at 10:00 UTC (10000~~  
453 | ~~#/cm<sup>3</sup> surface concentrations and 7000 #/cm<sup>3</sup> at 1200 m a.g.l.) and 12:55 y 13:42 h (10000~~  
454 | ~~#/cm<sup>3</sup> surface concentrations and 20000 #/cm<sup>3</sup> at the maximum height of 900 m a.g.l.).~~

455 | ~~In the early morning of 12/07/2016 O<sub>3</sub> strata at different heights within the PBL were~~  
456 | ~~detected, with concentrations reaching 30 to 55 ppb and higher levels (55 to 65 ppb) at the~~  
457 | ~~highest altitude reached. During the 10:00 UTC flight O<sub>3</sub> levels reached 75 ppb at the top level~~  
458 | ~~decreasing gradually down to 40 ppb at surface levels. At 12:00 UTC concentrations at the top~~  
459 | ~~of the profile reached 87 ppb, 70-75 ppb in the 100-700 m a.g.l. transect and 60 ppb in the~~  
460 | ~~lowest 100 m a.g.l., where NO titration and O<sub>3</sub> deposition was more efficient.~~

461 | ~~The soundings of 11 to 13/07/2016~~ Thus, the 12/07/2016 profiles again showed a vertical trend  
462 | characterised by: i) higher O<sub>3</sub> concentrations at the highest sounding altitude in the early  
463 | morning, ii) ~~an~~ increase in O<sub>3</sub> concentrations as the morning progressed (more pronounced at  
464 | low altitudes), and iii) homogenous O<sub>3</sub> concentration along the entire vertical profile, except in  
465 | the surface layers, where the deposition and titration markedly decreased O<sub>3</sub> levels reached at

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466 midday. Detailed descriptions of these soundings (Figures S7 and S8) can be found in the  
467 supplementary information.

468 ~~These vertical trends, with concentrations exceeding 75 ppb O<sub>3</sub> above 100-250 m a.g.l., and a~~  
469 ~~marked decrease down to 60 ppb at surface levels was also evident during the short profiles~~  
470 ~~obtained on 11/07/2016 at 18:28-18:41 UTC (Figure 11).~~

471

#### 472 4. Discussion

473 ~~5. Plaza et al. (1997), Pujadas et al. (2000) and Artíñano et al. (2003) described the major~~  
474 ~~meteorological patterns affecting the dispersion of pollutants in the basin, and their~~  
475 ~~seasonality. For summer, Plaza et al. (1997), concluded show, for the summer period in of the~~  
476 ~~study area, that the development of strong thermal convective activity, and the influence of~~  
477 ~~the mountain ranges produce characteristic mesoscale re-circulations. On the other hand and~~  
478 ~~the development of a very deep mixing layer (Crespí et al. (1995) report, also for summer and~~  
479 ~~the study area, the development of a very deep mixing layer. These authors report that these~~  
480 ~~re-circulations contribute markedly to the high O<sub>3</sub> episodes recorded in the region. According~~  
481 ~~to Plaza et al (1997) and Diéguez et al. (2009 and 2014) the arrangement of the Guadarrama~~  
482 ~~range favours the early heating of its S slopes, which that causes a clockwise turning of wind~~  
483 ~~direction, from with a NE component during the night, towards an E and S during the early~~  
484 ~~morning and midday, respectively, and to the SW during the late afternoon, thus defining the~~  
485 ~~north-western sector downwind of the city as the prone area for O<sub>3</sub> transport. Night-time~~  
486 ~~downslope winds inside the basin induce the observed north-easterlies at lower levels.~~  
487 ~~Influenced by these contributions, the barrier effect of the Guadarrama range against the N~~  
488 ~~and NW (Atlantic) winds, as well as the repeated clockwise circulation described above, cause~~  
489 ~~the sloshing movement of the urban plume of Madrid across the basin. This meteorological~~  
490 ~~system allows local O<sub>3</sub> formation and transport. Regarding the vertical scale, Plaza et al. (1997)~~  
491 ~~also showed that fumigation from high O<sub>3</sub>-rich layers (injected by upslope winds the previous~~  
492 ~~day or days, or transported from other areas outside the MAB Madrid basin) could also~~  
493 ~~contribute to the enhancement of the surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations across the basin. This was is~~  
494 ~~attributed to the upward gradient in concentrations in the lower 1 km of the atmosphere~~  
495 ~~measured in the early morning, and the subsequent mixing across the planetary boundary~~  
496 ~~layer (PBL) at midday. Similar results were found by balloon soundings at the Vic Plain (N~~  
497 ~~Barcelona) by Querol et al. (2017), and by earlier studies of Millán et al. (1991, 1992, 1996a to~~  
498 ~~e, 2000, 2002).~~

499 ~~6.~~ On the other hand, Gómez-Moreno et al. (2011) and Brines et al. (2015) reported both  
500 intensive summer and winter NPF episodes in the western border of ~~the~~ Madrid City, often  
501 ~~with the~~ simultaneously with occurrence of the highest O<sub>3</sub> episodes.

502 Considering the free sounding-O<sub>3</sub> profiles in Figure 3, high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations (>70 ppb) can be  
503 observed above the PBL, between 3000 and 5000 m a.s.l., which may be related to larger-scale  
504 transport of pollutants, ~~previously uplifted to the mid-troposphere or could also have been~~  
505 originated after a stratospheric intrusion and a subsequent deep subsidence into the middle  
506 troposphere, as is probably the case based on the ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis data  
507 following. Transport of high O<sub>3</sub> air masses in the middle troposphere, as for 13/07/2016 in

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508 Figure 3, was also documented by Plaza et al. (1997) over this e-area of Madrid in July 1994,  
509 during the final phase of a high O<sub>3</sub> period. More recently, Kalabokas et al. (2013, 2015, 2017),  
510 Zanis et al. (2014), and Akritidis et al. (2016), among others, have shown that similar transport  
511 processes of enriched O<sub>3</sub> layers at high altitude during the summer of the Eastern  
512 Mediterranean can contribute to increased surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations during the summer in  
513 the Eastern Mediterranean. This transport has been associated with large-scale subsidence  
514 within strong northerlyN flowswinds in the Eastern Mediterranean (Etesian winds), and the  
515 affected layers are dryer than average and show negative temperature anomalies. Figure S11  
516 shows the ECMWF ERA-Interim reanalysis together with the AEMET O<sub>3</sub> free soundings at  
517 Madrid airport for 13/07/2016 during the field campaign. The ridging at the lower troposphere  
518 over the Bay of Biscay at the rear-side of an upper-level trough (left panels) is accompanied by  
519 intense NW winds blowing in the middle and upper troposphere and NE flowswinds more-at  
520 ground level and up to 2000 m (see the radiosonde profile in the same figure). The O<sub>3</sub> intrusion  
521 is associated with the upper-level trough (Sections A-A and B-B in the figure), and a large area  
522 of deep subsidence and extremely low relative humidity observed within the NW flows over  
523 Madrid and to the north of the Iberian Peninsula and the Bay of Biscay. High O<sub>3</sub> concentrations  
524 and low relative humidity of the ERA-Interim profiles over the airport of Madrid (green and red  
525 dotted-lines in the panel “g” of Figure S11) are in agreement with the radiosonde observations  
526 in the same panel.

527 -The question now is how much of this O<sub>3</sub> could fumigate at ground level. According ttending  
528 to the radiosonde data, the-top-of-the mixing height top was about 2000 m a.s.l. at midday,  
529 but could increase to a-height-of-about 3100 m a.s.l. after the projection of the surface  
530 temperature increase observed during the afternoon at near-by stations. This height reaches  
531 the lower part of the O<sub>3</sub> enriched layer originated in the tropopause folding-at-a-remote-area  
532 to the N of Iberia. Thus, it-seems-that-a certain impact seems-iswas-probablelikely. However,  
533 the O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were relatively low at all surface stations during that day, as it  
534 corresponds to a vented, low-O<sub>3</sub> period. The highest surface concentrations of the days shown  
535 in Figure 3, with AEMET O<sub>3</sub> soundings, correspond to high O<sub>3</sub> (accumulation at lower  
536 atmospheric levels) periods occurring at the first and last week of July (06 and 27/07/2016).

537 -Thus, Aaccording to the O<sub>3</sub>-soundings and radio-soundings analysed above, as-well-as previous  
538 evidences described by Plaza et al. (1997), and the surface air quality measurements presented  
539 herein this study, surface O<sub>3</sub> formation from precursor emissions within the MMA seems to  
540 develop in the core of regional processes, modulated by large-scale meteorological  
541 conditions, distinguishing two types of episodes:

- 542 • ACCUMULATION, occurring in stable, stagnant conditions and regional accumulation of  
543 pollutants (in the sense of Millan et al., 1997, 2000; Gangoiti et al., 2001; Millán, 2014),  
544 with high O<sub>3</sub> reserve strata accumulated during the previous day(s) in the residual layer(s)  
545 and associated with fumigation around midday of the following day. The O<sub>3</sub>  
546 concentrations are high along the whole atmospheric column, but enriched in the lower  
547 section by additional local formation of O<sub>3</sub> within the PBL and transport-recirculation of the  
548 urban plume of Madrid around the area. This transport-recirculation is characterised by a  
549 net transport to the NW-N during daytime, after vertical mixing, and to the S and SW during  
550 night-time, inside the residual layer and decoupled from a more stable nocturnal surface

551 layer. Typically, pollutants accumulate during periods of 2-6 days, resulting in a well-  
552 marked peak and valley concentration periods that affect background, peri-urban, and in-  
553 city stations. This is the case for the O<sub>3</sub>-soundings of 29/06/2016 (not shown), and,  
554 particularly 27/07/2016 (Figure 127), or the measurements with captive and free balloons  
555 by Plaza et al. (1997) in 1993 and 1994, with very high concentrations of O<sub>3</sub> in the lower  
556 atmospheric layers, usually forming a bump in the vertical profile of O<sub>3</sub> below a height of  
557 2000 m a.s.l., easily reachable after daytime convection (Figure 127). As illustrated for  
558 06/07/2017, OFP (Table S1 and Figure S1) may be largely dominated by the carbonyls  
559 (mostly formaldehyde and acetaldehyde), followed by aromatic compounds (benzene,  
560 ~~toluene~~toluene, and C8-aromatics, C9-aromatics and C10 aromatics) when considering the  
561 VOC pool during the morning traffic peaks. The influence of aromatic VOCs on OFP rapidly  
562 decreases, while the influence of biogenic VOCs (~~primary and secondary~~ mostly isoprene  
563 followed by monoterpenes as primary species, and methacrolein, methyl-vinyl-  
564 ketone, isoprene-derived isomers of unsaturated hydroxy hydroperoxides (ISOPOOH) and  
565 methylglyoxal, as the main secondary species) increases through the day, resulting in a  
566 similar potential influence of biogenic and aromatic VOCs on O<sub>3</sub> formation during  
567 accumulation periods, but with an OFP still dominated by carbonyls (~~see supplementary~~  
568 ~~information for additional supporting material~~).

569 • VENTING, occurring in advective atmospheric conditions (in the sense of Millan et al., 1997,  
570 2000; Gangoiti et al., 2001; Millán, 2014), with O<sub>3</sub>-soundings characterized by (probably  
571 external) contributions from high-altitude O<sub>3</sub> strata, and their fumigation on the surface  
572 (episodes 11-14/07/2016). There is no accumulation of pollutants above the stable  
573 nocturnal boundary layer, if any, because more intense and steady winds are charged to  
574 sweep out the local production during the preceding day. OFP contributions of carbonyls  
575 (dominating OFP), and aromatic and biogenic VOCs did not significantly vary for 13 and  
576 14/07/2017 from what is described above for 06/07/2017.

577 As detailed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, with the weakening of general atmospheric circulation by  
578 the end of the campaign period, O<sub>3</sub> and UFP smoothly and progressively accumulated in the  
579 basin (Figure 75). An observed decrease of the PBL depth (up to -1800 m at midday, according  
580 to the AEMET radio-soundings during the campaign, see Figure S54), probably also contributed  
581 to the progressive increase of in-pollutant concentrations through the campaign.

582 With respect to the vertical variability, the general pattern for UFP (N<sub>3</sub>) clearly showed a rapid  
583 and marked growth of the PBL in the first hours of daylight (Figure 138). In these early stages  
584 of the day, O<sub>3</sub> profiles were characterized by a succession of strata of different concentrations,  
585 but with a clear increasing trend towards the higher levels (Figure 138). The discontinuity of  
586 the PBL ceiling, reflected in the UFP, temperature, and humidity profiles, was not identified as  
587 such in the O<sub>3</sub> profiles (Figures 75, 9-6, and 11S6 to S8). As the day progresses the UFP and O<sub>3</sub>  
588 concentration profiles are homogenized and a progressive diurnal growth of O<sub>3</sub> concentrations  
589 occurs until 16:00 or 17: 00 UTC (Figure 138), which is observed most clearly observed at the  
590 surface. This vertical variability points to different aspects, such as: (i) the relevance of  
591 fumigation from high altitude O<sub>3</sub>-rich strata; ii) surface titration by NO and deposition of O<sub>3</sub>;  
592 (iii) surface photochemical generation of O<sub>3</sub> from precursors (with higher concentrations close  
593 to the surface); and (iv) horizontal O<sub>3</sub> and precursor surface transport from the urban plume

594 of Madrid towards MJDH-RC. The upper O<sub>3</sub>-rich strata might have an external (to the Madrid  
595 basin) origin, or might have been injected regionally at high altitudes on the previous day(s) by  
596 the complex re-circulations of air masses already reported by Millán et al. (1997, 2000, 2002),  
597 EC (2002, and 2004), Gangoiti et al. (2001), Mantilla et al. (1997), Castells et al. (2008a, 2008  
598 and b), and Millán (2014) for the WMBestern Mediterranean, by McKendry et al. and Lundgren  
599 (2000) for other parts of the world, and by Plaza et al (1997), and Diéguez et al. (2007, 2014  
600 and 2014) for the Madrid area.

601 According to the last referenced authors, due to the orientation of the Sierra de Guadarrama  
602 (Figure 1), the heating of its S slopes throughout the day forces the wind direction to veer,  
603 describing an arc that sweeps the zones to the N of Madrid clockwise, from the W to the NE.  
604 Dieguéz et al. (2014) showed that the O<sub>3</sub> maxima are recorded at an intermediate point on this  
605 route (El Pardo, Colmenar V., see location in Figures 149 and S6S12), which is determined by  
606 the wind speed, the initial composition of the urban plume, and the results of photochemical  
607 processes on its route from the metropolitan area to tens of kilometres away. In addition, our  
608 results and those of Plaza et al. (1997) show that O<sub>3</sub> fumigation from high atmospheric layers  
609 decisively contributes to the increases in the surface levels, since surface concentrations  
610 during our measurements never exceeded those recorded at the highest altitude reached, and  
611 at midday homogeneous O<sub>3</sub> levels are measured across the lower 1.2 km of the PBL.

612 During the whole month of July 2016, there was a clear veering of the urban plume from  
613 Madrid, with night plume transport towards the SW (MJDH-San Martin de V., Figures 9 and  
614 S12), and towards the NW, N-NE, and, in some cases, E-SE during the morning and midday,  
615 followed by the decoupling and onset of the evening and nocturnal flow towards the SW. This  
616 veering seems to be causally associated with the high O<sub>3</sub> levels recorded in the W to E areas  
617 surrounding northern Madrid, since the peak concentrations recorded by the official air quality  
618 network follow this spatial and temporal evolution (Figure S12) for the exceedances of the O<sub>3</sub>  
619 information threshold.~~During the whole month of July 2016 the described veering of the urban~~  
620 ~~plume, towards W (MJDH-San Martin de V., see location in Figures 14 and S6) in the early~~  
621 ~~hours, and towards NW, N-NE, and, in some cases E and SE, followed by the decoupling and~~  
622 ~~onset of the nocturnal flow towards SW, seems to be causally associated with the O<sub>3</sub>~~  
623 ~~information threshold exceedances, since the maps of exceedances recorded by the official air~~  
624 ~~quality network follow this spatial and temporal evolution (Figure S6). These plume impacts~~  
625 occur in periods when the O<sub>3</sub> concentration is already high because of accumulation from one  
626 day to the next in the (same) air mass ~~from one day to the next~~, which is not completely  
627 renewed due to general circulation conditions. The relevance of the latter has been recently  
628 demonstrated by Otero et al. (2016), who report ed the maximum temperature as the  
629 parameter more directly related with high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in central-Central Europe,  
630 whereas, in the WMB region, the O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were more related to the concentrations  
631 recorded the day before. ~~The relevance of the latter has been recently demonstrated by Otero~~  
632 ~~et al. (2016), who reported the maximum temperature as the parameter more directly related~~  
633 ~~with high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in central Europe, whereas in the WMB Mediterranean regions it~~  
634 ~~was a high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were recorded with a lag of 24 h.~~

635 On the other hand, the differential afternoon-evening decrease of O<sub>3</sub> surface concentrations,  
636 compared with those found at the top of the soundings flights ~~can be attributed to (i) the~~

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637 ~~lower intensity or weakening of the fumigation processes; (ii) a greater O<sub>3</sub> titration and~~  
638 ~~deposition in the lower PBL; and (iii) the lower photochemical O<sub>3</sub> production after the midday~~  
639 ~~insolation maxima. Thus, this process~~ again demonstrates the relevance of high-altitude layers  
640 and their fumigation to the surface, in the hours of maximum convection.

641

642 Regarding the concentrations of UFP, they were very homogeneous throughout the PBL during  
643 the vertical profiles, especially in the hours of maximum convection, showing a marked  
644 increase from 11 to 14/07/2016 ~~infor~~ the whole depth for all profiles (Figure ~~138~~). Thus, on the  
645 12/07/2016, the upper limit of the PBL (marked by a sharp reduction ~~inof~~ UFP levels) reached  
646 900 ~~and~~ 1200 m a.g.l. ~~respectively~~ in the ~~soundings-flights~~ conducted at 08:05 and 10:12  
647 UTC (Figure ~~183~~). In turn, on ~~the~~ 14/07/2016, the top of the PBL ~~at midday~~ exceeded 1200 m  
648 a.g.l. only in the afternoon, being constrained to 300 to 700 m a.g.l. from 08:05 and 10:45 h  
649 UTC (also shown in the progressive loss of ~1800 m in the midday PBL height from 11 to  
650 14/07/2016, revealed by AEMET radio-soundings).

651 The enhanced convection on ~~the~~ 12/07/2016 probably favoured the dilution of UFP  
652 concentrations and reinforced the fumigation of O<sub>3</sub> from ~~the~~ upper levels. Conversely, the  
653 lower development of the PBL on 14/07/2016, ~~hindered the fumigation of upper O<sub>3</sub>~~  
654 ~~layers causing less surface UFP dilution and lower top-down contributions to O<sub>3</sub> to surface~~  
655 ~~concentrations; accounted for the resulting in an~~ opposite ~~temporal trend for~~ O<sub>3</sub> and UFP  
656 ~~along th~~ the profiles. Thus, a weaker development of the PBL might result in the increase of  
657 UFP concentrations, even if UFP emission/formation rates did not vary significantly. However,  
658 we cannot discard the possibility that this UFP increase on the last day was the result of a  
659 higher intensity and duration of the nucleation episodes.

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660 Consideration of the evolution of surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations ~~on the 11 and 12/07/2016~~ (as  
661 shown in Figure ~~149, on the 11 and 12/07/2016~~), depicts a double wave: the first peak around  
662 midday (11:00-14:00 UTC on the first day, and 12:00-13:00 on the second), ~~and the second one~~  
663 ~~peak~~ in the afternoon-evening (19-22:00 and 16:00-20:00 UTC, respectively), showing relative  
664 peaks (~~not always~~, sometimes just a plateau). We interpret that the morning increase of O<sub>3</sub>  
665 concentrations is dominated by both local production, ~~and still dominated by~~ anthropogenic  
666 VOCs (Figure S1), and fumigation of upper levels, with an early maximum when layers above  
667 are rich in O<sub>3</sub>, which progressively ~~decrease~~ with dilution with surface concentrations. The  
668 secondary evening concentration peak corresponds to the advection of a locally enriched O<sub>3</sub> air  
669 mass (titration always causes O<sub>3</sub> depletion towards nocturnal values). When both processes  
670 (morning fumigation and evening advection) are not so strong, O<sub>3</sub> local production results in a  
671 more "typical" diurnal time evolution, ~~with a single maximum at 15:00-16:00 UTC, as seen~~ on  
672 13-14/07/2016 (Figure ~~149~~).

673 The relative importance of the local contribution of the MMA to the O<sub>x</sub> concentrations  
674 registered in the monitoring stations has also been ~~elucidated-evaluated~~ by comparing the  
675 observations at upwind and downwind locations relative to the city. ~~InAt~~ this respect, Atazar  
676 and Alcobendas (Figure ~~149~~) are located downwind for 11 and 12/07/2016, and MJDH and  
677 Fuenlabrada are upwind, while the opposite occurs for 13 and 14/07/2016. As the urban air  
678 mass is transported towards the E and NE during the first two days, a local O<sub>x</sub> contribution is  
679 superimposed ~~to on~~ the background at Atazar and Alcobendas where recorded O<sub>x</sub> was the

680 highest in the basin (Figure 149). The contrary holds during the next two days, when these  
681 sites show lower concentrations than the rest. MJDH and Fuenlabrada show a reversed  
682 behaviour, with lower concentrations during the first two days and higher for the last days.

683 In addition of the local O<sub>3</sub>, the background contributions can also be very relevant. At high  
684 elevation, changes in the background tropospheric O<sub>3</sub> can be attributed to: (i) hemispheric  
685 background concentrations, (ii) the exchange between the free troposphere and boundary  
686 layer, and iii) the stratospheric inputs (Chevalier et al., 2007; Kulkarni et al., 2011; Parrish et al.,  
687 2012; Lefohn et al., 2012; Kalabokas et al., 2013, 2015, 2017; Zanis et al., 2014; Akritidis et al.,  
688 2016; Sicard et al., 2017).

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689

## 690 5. Conclusions

691 The phenomenology of O<sub>3</sub> episodes in the Madrid Metropolitan Area (MMA, Central Iberia)  
692 has been characterised. We found that O<sub>3</sub> episodes linked with precursors emitted in the  
693 Madrid conurbation are modulated by the complex regional atmospheric dynamics.

694 Vertical profiles (up to 1200 m a.g.l.), obtained using tethered balloons and miniaturised  
695 instrumentation at MJDH, a sub-urban site located on the southwestern  
696 flank of the Madrid Metropolitan Area (MMA) during 11-14/07/2016, showed how complex i  
697 O<sub>3</sub> critical evolution processes developed with altitude and time. Simultaneously,  
698 measurements of a number of air quality and meteorological parameters were carried out at 3  
699 supersites within the MMA, where spatial differences highlight the influence of atmospheric  
700 dynamics at on different scales.

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701 The results presented here confirm prior findings regarding the concatenation of relatively low  
702 (venting) and high (accumulation) O<sub>3</sub> episodes in summer. In the Madrid Air Basin (MAB),  
703 during both types of episodes, fumigation of high altitude O<sub>3</sub>-rich layers (from an external a  
704 remote or regional origin) contributes with a relevant proportion fraction to surface O<sub>3</sub>  
705 concentrations. Moreover, we propose here a conceptual model (shown in Figure 10)5. To be  
706 specific:

707 - Particularly, accumulation episodes are activated by a relatively thinner PBL (< 1500 m a.g.l.  
708 at midday), low light synoptic winds, and the development of anabatic winds along the slope  
709 of the Sierra de Guadarrama (W and NW of MAB, with >2400 m a.g.l. peaks). This PBL height,  
710 lower than the mountain range, and the development of the mountain breezes cause the  
711 vertical recirculation of air masses, and the enrichment of O<sub>3</sub> in the lower troposphere, as well  
712 as the formation of reserve strata reservoir layers that fumigate to the surface as the diurnal  
713 convective circulation develops. These atmospheric dynamics accounts for the occurrence of  
714 the high O<sub>3</sub>-O<sub>x</sub> (O<sub>3</sub>+NO<sub>2</sub>) surface concentrations.

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715 - During venting episodes, with a more intense synoptic winds, and the top of the PBL usually  
716 reaching >2000 m a.g.l., vertical O<sub>3</sub> profiles were characterised by an upward increase of in  
717 concentrations (whereas lower altitude O<sub>3</sub> maxima were observed in the accumulation  
718 periods). Interestingly, vertical profiles demonstrated that, during the study period, O<sub>3</sub>  
719 fumigation (top-down flow) from upper layers prevailed as a contribution to surface O<sub>3</sub>  
720 concentrations, whereas the increase of UFP takes place bottom-up, progressing with the

721 development of the PBL and the occurrence of nucleation and growth episodes occurring  
 722 within the PBL. Thus, ~~when~~ crossing the boundary of the PBL from the free troposphere  
 723 increases of UFP concentrations by an order of magnitude, and a slight decrease ~~in~~ O<sub>3</sub> levels  
 724 were registered. This O<sub>3</sub> and UFP vertical distribution through the day is consistent with the  
 725 existence of an efficient venting mechanism, which is able to sweep out the local production of  
 726 the day. Thus, there is no accumulation of pollutants above the observed stable nocturnal  
 727 boundary layer from one day to the next, and new UFP production is added from below the  
 728 following day. The presence of O<sub>3</sub>-enriched layers well above the stable nocturnal boundary  
 729 layer, ~~transported by~~ sustained intense westerly winds, suggests a remote origin of this  
 730 pollutant, ~~after in~~ photochemical ~~processes~~ reactions and uplift processes developed at least  
 731 the day before away from the ~~Madrid basin~~ MAB, ~~or stratospheric intrusions, such as like the~~  
 732 one documented on the 13/07/2016, during the field campaign. However, surface ozone O<sub>3</sub>  
 733 concentrations that all stations of the MAB were kept low during this day; consequently, even  
 734 when fumigation from this intrusion was certainly very likely, its air quality affection was  
 735 irrelevant for the same days, but the effect in the forthcoming days of subsided O<sub>3</sub> cannot be  
 736 evaluated with our tools. ~~The high~~ O<sub>3</sub> period in the area initiated the day after, ~~on July~~  
 737 14<sup>th</sup> 14/07/2016, and attained their highest concentration on the 16/07/2016 th.

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738 The results obtained in this intensive field campaign can be summarized in the following  
 739 conclusions<sub>2</sub> and recommendations concerning O<sub>3</sub> abatement policies:

- 740 • The O<sub>3</sub> source apportionment is very complex, with contributions from local/regional  
 741 and remote sources, including the stratosphere. The relative contributions of these  
 742 might vary in time and space (v.g. see Lefohn et al., 2014) as an example).
- 743 • Climate change might reduce the benefits of the O<sub>3</sub> abatement policies (since heat  
 744 waves increase O<sub>3</sub> episodes). and This, as well as the measures and policies in N  
 745 America and Asia, will need to be considered in future Europe policies for O<sub>3</sub>  
 746 mitigation (Lefohn and Cooper, 2015; Sicard et al., 2017).
- 747 • The phenomenology of O<sub>3</sub> episodes in ~~S-Europe~~ the WMBestern-Mediterranean is  
 748 extremely complex, mainly due to the close ~~coupling~~ relation between photochemistry  
 749 processes and mesoscale atmospheric dynamics. This, requiresing, consequently,  
 750 abatement policies very different ~~to~~ from the ones useful for Central Northern  
 751 Europe, as intensive research has demonstrated in the last decades.
- 752 • In the MAB, during the highest O<sub>3</sub> (accumulation) episodes, to in addition to the  
 753 apart from the contribution (to surface concentrations) of remote sources, afterby  
 754 fumigation of upper O<sub>3</sub>-enriched layers -fumigation (from regional transport,  
 755 hemispheric free troposphere O<sub>3</sub>, and intruded stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>), contribution (X in  
 756 Figure 10)5) to surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations, there is an added fraction of O<sub>3</sub>-produced  
 757 locally and/or transported-recirculated horizontally within the MAB, which accumulates  
 758 from one day to the next (Y in Figure 105). If sensitivity analyses demonstrate that  
 759 abatement of specific precursors would have an effect on reducing O<sub>3</sub> peaks, then the  
 760 reduction strategies (geographic extension, timing, and so on...) to for decrease  
 761 decreasing the Y-X and X-Y components are very different, and, in most cases, the X  
 762 component will dominate the relative contributions. Thus, probably, structural  
 763 measures over wider regions would be more effective than local episodic measures,

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764 ~~(that~~ which might have a larger effect on the Y component). In terms of precursors,  
765 ~~the OFP analysis carried out at the...)~~ to decrease the Y and X components are very  
766 different, and, in most cases, the X component will dominate in the relative  
767 contributions. ~~Thus, Thus, probably,~~ structural measures over wider regions would be  
768 more effective than ~~local episodic tactics measures,~~ (that might have a larger effect on  
769 the Y component). In terms of precursors, the OFP analysis carried out at ISCIII site  
770 shows that, even if anthropogenic emissions may ~~still~~ dominate the O<sub>3</sub> formation  
771 through the potential impact of alkenes and alkanes (not measured ~~here~~), and the high  
772 contribution of carbonyls (formaldehyde and acetaldehyde), biogenic emissions must  
773 be considered. Biogenic VOC (primary and secondary) and aromatic compounds (C6 to  
774 C10) contribute to the same extent to the OFP, according our calculations (Table S1  
775 and Figure S1).

- 776 • The meteorological scenarios causing the summer accumulation episodes in the MAB  
777 (high temperatures, low synoptic winds and relatively thinner PBL) should be forecast  
778 ~~in order,~~ to drive an effective alert system ~~on their possible occurrence of pollution~~  
779 ~~episodes.~~
- 780 • ~~It is necessary to achieve a~~ more detailed characterisation of O<sub>3</sub> precursors (VOC and  
781 ~~biogenic VOCs, BVOCs)~~ in the MAB is necessary, especially in the source areas, to  
782 effectively predict the photochemical evolution of the plumes, ~~and~~ the main impact  
783 areas where O<sub>3</sub> from high-altitude reservoir layers formed the previous day(s) before  
784 ~~from other precursors~~ fumigates to the surface levels enriched in O<sub>3</sub> and other  
785 precursors.
- 786 • Modelling techniques and sSensitivity analyses ~~using modelling techniques~~ will allow  
787 ~~permit the e simulation-simulacione of of the real conditions-situation~~ concerning the  
788 O<sub>3</sub> abatement potential, ~~but~~ only if the following is achieved in advance: i) ~~reproduce~~  
789 the recirculation cells and other local/regional ~~complex~~ meteorological  
790 ~~processes,attns such~~ as the fumigation ~~timing processes~~ and regional the plume  
791 transport, are reproduced; ii) ~~include~~ a geographically resolved and accurate emission  
792 inventory of O<sub>3</sub> precursors in the source areas and their temporal modulation is  
793 included; and iii) ~~Ireproduce the~~ origin of the high-altitude O<sub>3</sub> strata from external  
794 origins is reproduced.
- 795 • Thus a good combination of regional/local scale modelling, able to reproduce  
796 horizontal/vertical recirculations of air masses and the behaviour of with  
797 urban/industrial plumes in complex topography/meteorology, with modelling that  
798 being able to calculate contributions from long-range transport, free troposphere, and  
799 stratospheric O<sub>3</sub>, will be needed to efficiently support policy (see, for example, v.g. the  
800 ACP special issue on the Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate Model Intercomparison  
801 Project, ACCMIP [https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/special\\_issue296.html](https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/special_issue296.html); the  
802 FAIRMODE initiative, Thunis et al., 2015; and the Monitoring Atmospheric Composition  
803 & Climate (MACC)).

804 The conceptual model described here in this study for O<sub>3</sub> episodes in the MMA confirming the  
805 relevance of the vertical re-circulations (on top of the high atmospheric multi-source O<sub>3</sub>  
806 background) that Millan et al (1997, 2000), Gangoiti et al. (2001), and Millán (2014)

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807 highlighted, ~~and~~ controlled in this case by specific synoptic conditions ~~and~~ the PBL depth, may  
808 ~~also be also~~ applicable to most ~~of the S-Europe~~ Western Mediterranean Basin (WMB). Thus,  
809 Otero et al. (2016) demonstrated ~~d~~ that in ~~Ce~~ central Europe, the highest temperature is the most  
810 statistically related parameter for O<sub>3</sub> episodes, ~~whereas~~ in ~~S-Europe~~ the WMB Western  
811 ~~Mediterranean~~ it is the O<sub>3</sub> levels recorded the day before (reflecting re-circulation).

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