

Foreign and domestic contributions to springtime ozone over China

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Abstract. China is facing a severe ozone problem, but the origin of its ozone remains unclear. Here we use a GEOS-Chem based global-regional two-way coupled model system to quantify the individual contributions of eight emission source regions worldwide to springtime ozone in 2008 over China. The model reproduces the observed ozone from 31 ground sites and various aircraft and ozonesonde measurements in China and nearby countries, with a mean bias of 10–15% both near the surface and in the troposphere. We then combine zero-out simulations, tagged ozone simulations, and a linear weighting approach to accounting for the effect of nonlinear chemistry on ozone source attribution. We find considerable contributions of total foreign anthropogenic emissions to surface ozone over China (2–11 ppb). For ozone averaged over China of anthropogenic origin, foreign regions together contribute 40–50% below the height of 2 km and 85% in the upper troposphere. For total foreign anthropogenic emissions contributed ozone over China at various heights, the portion of transboundary ozone produced within foreign emission source regions is less than 50%, with the rest produced by precursors transported out of those source regions. Japan and Korea contribute 0.6–2.1 ppb of surface ozone over the east coastal regions. South-East Asia contributes 1–5 ppb over much of southern China and South Asia contributes up to 5–10 ppb of surface ozone over border of southwestern China; and their contributions increase with height due to strong upwelling over the source regions. European contribution reaches 2.1–3.0 ppb for surface ozone over the northern border of China and 1.5 ppb in the lower troposphere averaged over China. North America contributes 0.9–2.7 ppb of surface ozone over most of China (1.5–2.1 ppb over the North China Plain), with a China average at 1.5–2.5 ppb at different heights below 8 km, due to its large anthropogenic emissions and the transport-favorable mid-latitude westerly. In addition to domestic emission control, global emission reduction is critical for China’s ozone mitigation.

37 1. Introduction

38 Ozone is an important atmospheric oxidant and the primary source of the hydroxyl
39 radical (OH). At the surface, ozone also damages human health and reduces crop yield.
40 China is currently facing a severe ozone pollution problem, with measured maximum
41 hourly ozone exceeding 200 ppb in many cities (Wang et al., 2006; Xue et al., 2014).
42 Even in the remote areas of western China, measured daily mean concentrations of
43 ozone exceed 50 ppb frequently (Xue et al., 2011; Lin et al., 2015). Xu et al. (2016)
44 showed that daytime ozone at Waliguan, a global background station, grew
45 significantly from 1994 to 2013 at a rate of 0.24 ± 0.16 ppb year⁻¹. The severe ozone
46 problem is largely associated with growth in anthropogenic emissions of nitrogen
47 oxides (NO_x) and non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC). Chinese
48 anthropogenic NO_x emissions increased at a rate of 7.9% year⁻¹ from 2000 to 2010
49 (Zhao et al., 2013); and its anthropogenic NMVOC emissions increased from 22.45 Tg
50 in 2008 to 29.85 Tg in 2012 (Wu et al., 2016).

51 Ozone has a lifetime of several days to weeks in the troposphere (Young et al.,
52 2013; Yan et al., 2016), which makes its long-distance transport across regions and even
53 continents possible. Many observational and modeling studies have showed substantial
54 trans-Pacific and trans-Atlantic transport of ozone and precursors (Jacob et al., 1999;
55 Derwent et al., 2004; Lin et al., 2008; Cooper et al., 2010; Verstraeten et al., 2016). The
56 trans-Pacific transport of East Asian air pollutants enhances springtime surface ozone
57 concentrations over the western United States by 1–5 ppb (Zhang et al., 2008; Brown-
58 Steiner and Hess, 2011; Lin et al., 2012b; Lin et al., 2014). Auvray and Bey (2005)
59 reported that North American and Asian ozone account for 10.9% and 7.7% of ozone
60 over Europe, respectively. The Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (HTAP) project
61 studied the trans-continental pollution, by model sensitivity simulations applying a 20%
62 perturbation in anthropogenic emissions in four regions (North America, Europe, South
63 Asia, and East Asia, each defined as a broad rectangle-shaped area) (HTAP, 2010).
64 HTAP showed that the annual average impact of North American emissions on East
65 Asian surface ozone is comparable to the impact of East Asian emissions on North
66 America (0.22 ppb averaged over each rectangular region).

67 Several studies investigated the influence of transboundary transport on surface ozone
68 over Chinese territory (Wang et al., 2011; Li et al., 2014; Li et al., 2016b; Zhu et al.,
69 2016; Yin et al., 2017). Wang et al. (2011) used tagged ozone simulations with GEOS-
70 Chem to study the global production of surface ozone over China for 2006. They
71 showed that in spring 2006, tropospheric ozone produced over India contributed up to
72 6 ppb to surface ozone over western China; and that ozone produced over Europe and
73 North America each contributed 2–5 ppb of ozone over northeastern China and North
74 China. Using an emission zero-out method with MOZART simulations (i.e., without
75 versus with emissions), Li et al. (2014) reported that modeled trans-Eurasian ozone

76 transport enhanced surface ozone over northwestern China by 2–6 ppb in spring 2000.
77 Using tagged ozone simulations with MOZART, Zhu et al. (2016) revealed significant
78 springtime ozone transport (~ 6 ppb) from Europe and Africa to Waliguan averaged
79 from 1997 to 2007 and 3–5 ppb ozone from North and South America together. Using
80 a tagged ozone method based on the Nested Air Quality Prediction Modeling System
81 (NAQPMS), Li et al. (2016) found 0.5–3.0 ppb of ozone over northeastern China
82 produced over the Korean peninsula in 2010. Based on observational and back-
83 trajectory analyses, Yin et al. (2016) found that ozone at the Nam Co site over Tibet in
84 spring is greatly affected by anthropogenic contributions from South Asia.

85 Transboundary ozone due to precursor emissions of a source region can be produced
86 both within and outside the source region. The two mechanisms contribute roughly
87 equally for the case of trans-Pacific ozone from East Asia to the western United States
88 (Zhang et al., 2008; Jiang et al., 2016). And the ozone production along the transport
89 pathway is largely associated with thermal dissociation of peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN)
90 that has been formed in the boundary layer of the NO_x emission source region. The
91 transport of ozone precursors means that ozone produced within a region (from emitted
92 and transported precursors worldwide) differs from ozone produced from that region's
93 emissions. This difference affects how ozone over a receptor region is attributed to other
94 regions (Wang et al., 2011; Li et al., 2014). It is thus important that the contribution of
95 ozone produced at a “producing region” from emissions of a source region be quantified
96 explicitly.

97 Here we simulate the contributions of anthropogenic emissions in individual regions
98 across the globe to ozone at various heights over China. As typically assumed,
99 anthropogenic contributions are associated with anthropogenic NO_x, carbon monoxide
100 (CO) and NMVOC emissions, excluding the effect of methane. We use a GEOS-Chem
101 based two-way coupled modeling system (Yan et al., 2014; 2016) that integrates an
102 Asian nested model and a global model in a sense of two-way exchange, which better
103 simulates multi-scale interactions between the nested and global domains. Our study is
104 focused on spring 2008, in which season a comprehensive set of ground, aircraft and
105 ozonesonde measurements over China is available for model evaluation. Also,
106 transboundary transport of ozone is most significant in spring due to active cyclonic
107 activities and strong westerly winds (Liang et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2011; HATP,
108 2010).

109 We explicitly identify ozone produced in 10 individual regions of the world from
110 anthropogenic precursor emissions in each of eight source regions. These 10 producing
111 regions include the troposphere of the eight emitters, the troposphere of total oceanic
112 regions, and the stratosphere. For this purpose, we combine the emission zero-out
113 method and the tagged ozone approach (Wang et al., 1998). The zero-out or similar
114 emission perturbation methods are widely used to quantify the contribution of
115 emissions in a source region to a receptor region as a combined result of the two
116 production-transport mechanisms aforementioned (Lin et al., 2008; HTAP, 2010; Lin

117 et al 2012a; Li et al., 2014). The tagged ozone approach quantifies the ozone produced
118 in any designated region with no information about whether the associated precursors
119 are emitted in that region or are transported from somewhere else (Wang et al., 1998;
120 Wang et al., 2011; Li et al., 2016b). To account for ozone production nonlinearity, we
121 use a simple linear weighting method to adjusting simulation results, similar to Li et al.
122 (2016a).

123 The rest of our paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents model simulations,
124 measurement data, and the ozone source attribution method. Section 3 evaluates the
125 modeled ozone and CO using ground, aircraft and ozonesonde observations. Section 4
126 analyzes the modeled contributions to near-surface ozone over China by natural sources
127 as well as anthropogenic emissions in individual regions. Section 5 shows the ozone
128 source attribution at different heights of the troposphere. For each emission source
129 region, it also separates the contribution of ozone produced within that source region
130 from the contribution produced outside of that source region. Section 6 concludes the
131 study.

132 **2. Model simulations, measurements, and source attribution method**

133 *2.1 Two-way coupled GEOS-Chem modeling system*

134 The two-way coupled system (Yan et al., 2014; Yan et al., 2016) is built upon version
135 9-02 of GEOS-Chem (http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem/index.php/Main_Page).
136 Here we couple the global GEOS-Chem model (at 2.5° long. \times 2° lat.) with its
137 nested model covering Asia (70°E – 150°E , 11°S – 55°N , at 0.667° long. \times 0.5° lat.).
138 Through the PeKing University CouPLer (PKUCPL) for two-way coupling, for every
139 three hours the global model provides lateral boundary conditions for the nested
140 model, while the nested model results replace the global model results within the
141 nested domain (Yan et al., 2014; 2016). Both models are driven by the GEOS-5
142 assimilated meteorological fields at respective horizontal resolutions from National
143 Aeronautics and Space Administration Global Modeling and Assimilation Office.
144 There are 47 vertical layers for both models, and the lowest 10 layers are about 130 m
145 thick each.

146 Both the global and nested GEOS-Chem models include the full gaseous HO_x-O_x-
147 NO_x-CO-NMVOC chemistry (Mao et al., 2013) and online aerosol calculations, with
148 further updates detailed in Lin et al. (2012) and Yan et al. (2016). As aromatics are not
149 explicitly represented in the model, following Lin et al. (2012), we approximate the
150 ozone production of aromatics by increasing anthropogenic emissions of propene by a
151 factor of four, based on their reactivity differences, their similarity in emission spatial
152 variability, and recently estimated emission amounts of aromatics (Liu et al., 2010). We
153 use the Linoz scheme for ozone production in the stratosphere (McLinden et al., 2000).
154 We adjust the stratospheric production rate in the nested model to ensure that the
155 stratosphere-troposphere exchange (STE) of ozone in the nested model matches the
156 STE in the global model over the same nested domain (Yan et al., 2016). Vertical

157 mixing in the planetary boundary layer (PBL) is parameterized by a non-local scheme
158 (Holtstlag and Boville, 1993; Lin and McElroy, 2010), and convection in the model
159 employs the relaxed Arakawa-Schubert scheme (Moorthi and Suarez, 1992).

160 Table 1 lists the emission inventories used here. Global anthropogenic emissions of
161 NO_x and CO in 2008 are from the Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research
162 (EDGAR v4.2). Anthropogenic NMVOC emissions are from the REanalysis of
163 Tropospheric chemical composition (RETRO) inventory for 2000. Anthropogenic
164 emissions over China, the rest of Asia, the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe
165 are replaced by regional inventories MEIC (for 2008), INTEX-B (for 2006), NEI2005
166 (for 2005), CAC (for 2008), BRAVO (for 1999) and EMEP (for 2007), respectively.
167 Emissions of CO and NO_x are scaled to 2008 in the United States and to 2006 in Mexico.
168 ([http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-](http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem/index.php/Scale_factors_for_anthropogenic_emissions)
169 [chem/index.php/Scale factors for anthropogenic emissions](http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem/index.php/Scale_factors_for_anthropogenic_emissions)). We use daily biomass
170 burning emissions from Global Fire Emission Database version 3 (GFED3) (van der
171 Werf et al., 2010). Biogenic emissions of NMVOC are calculated online based on the
172 MEGAN v2.1 scheme (Guenther et al., 2012). For lightning NO_x emissions, flash rates
173 are calculated based on the cloud top height and constrained by climatological satellite
174 observations (Murray et al., 2012), and the vertical profile of emitted NO_x follows Otto
175 et al. (2010). Online calculation of soil NO_x emissions follows Hudman et al. (2012).

176 *2.2 Zero-out simulations, tagged ozone simulations, and weighted adjustment*

177 Table 2 presents 10 full-chemistry simulations to quantify Chinese and foreign
178 anthropogenic contributions to springtime ozone over China in 2008. A base simulation
179 (CTL) includes all emissions. The second simulation excludes anthropogenic NO_x, CO
180 and NMVOC emissions worldwide to determine the natural ozone (xANTH). Eight
181 additional simulations exclude anthropogenic emissions over China (xCH), Japan and
182 Korea (xJAKO), South-East Asia (xSEA), South Asia (xSA), Rest of Asia (xROA),
183 Europe (xEU), North America (xNA) and Rest of World (xROW), respectively (see
184 regional definitions in Fig. 1). All simulations cover November 2007 through May 2008,
185 with the first four months used for spin-up, except for additional CTL simulations in
186 other years for model evaluation purposes.

187 Table 2 also shows 10 tagged simulations (denoted as T_CTL, T_xANTH, etc.) with
188 respect to CTL and other eight zero-out sensitivity simulations. Each tagged simulation
189 includes 10 tracers to track ozone produced within the troposphere of eight source
190 regions, produced within the troposphere of the oceanic regions, or transported from
191 the stratosphere. Considering the time for STE of air, all tagged ozone simulations are
192 spun up for 10 years.

193 Ozone production is nonlinearly dependent on its precursors, adding uncertainties to
194 the source attribution calculated by emission perturbation methods (Wu et al., 2009).
195 To account for this issue, we use a linear weighting method to adjust all ozone
196 attribution results, unless stated otherwise. Below is an example to determine the

197 contribution from Chinese anthropogenic emissions (here C_i represents the sensitivity
 198 simulation for one of the eight emission source regions). The adjustment is done for
 199 each grid cell over China. Equation 1 calculates the fractional Chinese contribution (α)
 200 to the sum of ozone from individual anthropogenic source regions and from natural
 201 sources; the simulations involved are all full-chemistry runs (CTL, xCH, xEU, ...,
 202 xANTH). Equation 2 applies the fractional contribution α to the total ozone in CTL to
 203 obtain the final adjusted Chinese contribution.

$$204 \quad \alpha = \frac{\text{Con(CTL)} - \text{Con(xCH)}}{\sum_{i=1}^8 [\text{Con(CTL)} - \text{Con}(C_i)] + \text{Con(xANTH)}} \quad (1)$$

$$205 \quad C_{\text{CH}} = \alpha \times \text{Con(CTL)} = \frac{\text{Con(CTL)} - \text{Con(xCH)}}{\sum_{i=1}^8 [\text{Con(CTL)} - \text{Con}(C_i)] + \text{Con(xANTH)}} \times \text{Con(CTL)} \quad (2)$$

206 Figure 2a shows the spatial distribution of the ratio of total surface ozone in CTL to
 207 the pre-linear-weighting-adjustment sum of natural ozone, domestic anthropogenic
 208 ozone and foreign anthropogenic ozone. The ratio is close to unity over central and
 209 western China. Over most of the eastern regions, the ratio is between 1.05 and 1.10,
 210 although it can reach 1.30 at a few locations. Figure 2b further compares the vertical
 211 profile of China average total ozone in CTL and the profile of pre-linear-weighting-
 212 adjustment sum of natural ozone, domestic anthropogenic ozone and foreign
 213 anthropogenic ozone. The difference between the two profiles is rather small. These
 214 results suggest relative small effects of chemical nonlinearity. And the linear weighting
 215 adjustment further removes these effects.

216 A similar approach was used by Li et al. (2016a) to estimate the contribution of China
 217 to global radiative forcing, although in their study 20% (instead of 100%) of emissions
 218 over individual emission source regions are removed in the sensitivity simulations.

219 *2.3 Measurements*

220 This study presents model evaluation over China and its neighboring countries in spring.
 221 We also evaluate the simulation of CO, a relatively long-lived transport tracer. Figure
 222 3 shows the suite of ground, aircraft and ozonesonde measurements.

223 *2.3.1 Surface measurements*

224 Measurements from a total of 32 ground sites are used here; see Tables 3 and 4 for
 225 geographical information. Routine observations of ozone and CO in China were
 226 scarcely available before 2013. Hourly data are available for this study from five
 227 rural/background sites across China maintained by the Chinese Meteorological
 228 Administration (Xu et al., 2008; Lin et al., 2009; Fang et al., 2014; Ma et al., 2014).
 229 These sites include a rural site (Gucheng over North China Plain), three regional
 230 background sites (Longfengshan over the northeast, Lin'an over the east, and Shangri-
 231 La over the southwest), and a Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) background site
 232 (Waliguan over the west). Data are available for 2007 at Gucheng and Longfengshan

233 and for 2008 at other three sites.

234 We also use hourly ozone and CO measurements in spring 2008 from six GAW
235 background sites in the vicinity of China from the World Data Center for Greenhouse
236 Gases (WDCGG, <http://ds.data.jma.go.jp/gmd/wdcgg/cgi-bin/wdcgg/catalogue.cgi>).
237 These sites include Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan, Everest-Pyramid in Nepal, Bukit Koto
238 Tabang in Indonesia, and Yonagunijima, Tsukuba and Ryori in Japan.

239 To obtain a more comprehensive observation dataset for model evaluation, we further
240 use monthly mean ozone data in spring 2008 from 15 remote/rural sites from the Acid
241 Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET,
242 <http://www.eanet.asia/product/index.html>). We also collect monthly ozone observation
243 data at six sites over China from the literature, including data at three mountain sites
244 (Mts. Tai, Hua, and Huang).

245 *2.3.2 Measurements of vertical profiles*

246 To evaluate vertical distribution of ozone and CO over China, we use observations from
247 the Measurements of Ozone and Water Vapor by Airbus In-Service Aircraft (MOZAIC)
248 program (Marenco et al., 1998). Data during both ascending and descending processes
249 of the aircrafts are available during spring 2000–2005 at three airports (Beijing,
250 Shanghai, and Hong Kong). The vertical resolution is 150 m.

251 We further use the ozonesonde data at six sites in spring 2008 from the World Ozone
252 and Ultraviolet Date Center (WOUDC,
253 <http://www.woudc.org/data/explore.php?lang=en>) operated by the Meteorological
254 Service of Canada. The six sites include Hanoi in Vietnam, Hong Kong in China,
255 Sepang Airport in Malaysia, and Sapporo, NAHA and Tateno in Japan. Ozonesondes
256 are launched every few days, thus the data are relatively scarce. We also use the GPSO3
257 ozonesonde data in spring 2008 over Beijing measured by the Institute of Atmospheric
258 Physics (IAP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Wang et al., 2012). All ozonesonde
259 measurements were launched at around 14:00 local time.

260 **3. Model evaluation**

261 Here we focus on model evaluation over China and its neighboring area in spring.
262 Global ozone evaluation of the two-way coupled model system is detailed in Yan et al.
263 (2016) using 1420 ground sites, various aircraft observations and satellite
264 measurements, although the observations over China are sparse.

265 *3.1 Surface ozone and CO over China and nearby countries*

266 Figure 4 compares the springtime time series of modeled (solid red line) and observed
267 (solid black line) maximum daily average 8-hour (MDA8) ozone concentrations at 10
268 sites with daily measurements. Model data are sampled at times and locations

269 coincident with valid observations.

270 Figure 4a–b evaluates the model results at Gucheng and Longfengshan. To compare to
271 observations in spring 2007 at these two sites, we conduct an additional full chemistry
272 simulation for 2007. At these sites, the model captures the observed MDA8 ozone, with
273 a normalized mean bias (NMB) of 3% at Gucheng and 5% at Longfengshan. The
274 respective correlation coefficients (R) for day-to-day variability are 0.51 and 0.59; the
275 modest correlation is primarily because the model does not capture a few short-term
276 spikes.

277 At Lin'an (Fig. 4c), the modeled spring average MDA8 ozone matches the observed
278 value (68.9 ppb versus 65.1 ppb, $R = 0.64$). The model cannot reproduce the observed
279 extreme low values on several days. This deficiency is likely due to representative
280 errors of model meteorology. Located in a hilly area, this site often receives rains and
281 fogs in spring, which is not captured by the model meteorology at a resolution of 0.667°
282 long. $\times 0.5^\circ$ lat. We find that the extremely low observed ozone values normally occur
283 on days with high relative humidity (black dashed line, reflecting rainy or foggy days),
284 when the model underestimates RH (red dashed line) and overestimates ozone.

285 At Shangri-La, Waliguan and Issyk-Kul (Fig. 4d–f), with high altitudes (1640–3816 m)
286 and little local anthropogenic sources, the model overestimates the MDA8 ozone by 7–
287 8 ppb (12–14%). At Everest-Pyramid in Nepal (Fig. 4g, at 5079 m altitude), the
288 overestimate reaches 13 ppb (19%). These positive biases are due to overestimated
289 transport from the free troposphere and stratosphere. The model captures the temporal
290 variability of MDA8 ozone quite well ($R = 0.72$ – 0.78) at the three Japanese sites
291 (Yonagunijima, Tsukuba and Ryori, Fig. 4h–j). Its NMB is within 3% at Yonagunijima
292 and Ryori. There is an overestimate at Tsukuba (NMB = 19%), mostly reflecting the
293 large positive biases on a few days.

294 Table 4 shows model comparisons with monthly mean EANET ozone data. These data
295 represent daily mean rather than MDA8 values, based on the availability of
296 observations. At seven sites, the model results exceed the observations with a mean
297 difference by 7 ppb (16%). At the other eight sites, the model results are smaller than
298 the observations with a mean difference by 7 ppb (11%). These differences reflect
299 model biases as well as a sampling bias due to lack of knowledge on which days contain
300 valid observations.

301 Table 4 further compares the modeled monthly mean daily mean ozone in spring 2008
302 to the observations in various years collected from the literature. Again, the comparison
303 is affected by a sampling bias. Although not our primary focus, this extended
304 comparison gives a sense of how model ozone is situated in the general ozone pollution
305 phenomena in China. The model reproduces the average magnitude of ozone at the
306 three mountainous sites (Mts. Tai, Hua and Huang) with a mean bias below 5 ppb (9%).
307 The model has a large overestimate by 48% at the Hok Tsui coastal rural site in Hong
308 Kong (36.0 versus 53.4 ppb), although the times are different (2008 versus 1994–2007).

309 Wang et al. (2009) shows that the springtime ozone concentration at this site increased
310 from 1994 to 2007 at a rate of 0.41 ppb/yr, partly explaining this difference. The
311 remaining difference may reflect that the model resolution is not able to represent the
312 complex local terrain and land-sea contrast at this site. The model overestimates ozone
313 at an urban site in Nanjing by 16%, although the observations were made in 2000–2002
314 when Chinese anthropogenic emissions of NO_x were only about half of those in 2008
315 (Xia et al., 2016).

316 We also evaluate the modeled daily average CO at six sites within and outside China
317 with available hourly observations (Fig. 5). Overall, the model captures the day-to-day
318 variability of daily mean CO fairly well ($R = 0.40$ at Lin'an, 0.60 at Shangri-La, 0.56
319 at Ryori, and 0.73–0.82 at other three sites). It has a small mean bias (within 4%) at
320 Bukit Koto Tabang and Ryori, although with negative biases (by 13–33%) at other four
321 sites. Such an underestimate is typical in global simulations (Young et al., 2013), and
322 it may be related to excessive OH (Young et al., 2013; Yan et al., 2014; 2016) and/or
323 underestimated emissions (Kopacz et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2011). As compared to the
324 coarse-resolution global model alone, our two-way coupling results in less CO
325 underestimate (Yan et al., 2014), although it does not eliminate the bias.

326 *3.2 Vertical profiles of ozone and CO*

327 Figure 6a–c compares modeled ozone in 2008 to MOZAIC data over 2000–2005 at the
328 airports of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. Although model and MOZAIC data are
329 in different years, to achieve best sampling consistency, we sample the model results at
330 times of day when the commercial aircrafts take off or land in with available MOZAIC
331 data. The timing information is shown in Fig. 6. GEOS-Chem reproduces the vertical
332 gradient of MOZAIC ozone in general. The model underestimates MOZAIC ozone in
333 the PBL over Beijing Airport mainly due to inconsistent temporal sampling, as further
334 comparison with GPSO3 ozonesonde data (Bian et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2012), where
335 model results are sampled at times coincident with the observations, shows little model
336 bias (within 4%, Fig. 6g). Over Hong Kong, the model captures the weak vertical
337 gradient between 2 km and 11 km, although it has a positive bias below 2 km due to its
338 inability to capture the complex terrains and local pollution source characteristics
339 around the airport. The model overestimates ozone in the middle and upper troposphere
340 over Shanghai, with larger biases at higher altitudes, likely indicating too strong STE.
341 Other causes may include differences in meteorology and growth in emissions between
342 2000–2005 and 2008, as discussed for the surface ozone in Sect. 3.1.

343 Figure 7 compares the modeled ozone profiles to WOUDC data at six sites. Here model
344 results are sampled at ozonesonde launch times, and ozonesonde data are regridded to
345 match the model vertical resolution. Overall, GEOS-Chem captures the vertical
346 gradient of ozone fairly well. The model reproduces the overall weak vertical gradients
347 at Hanoi, Hong Kong, Sepang and NAHA. It also reproduces the rapid increases above
348 8 km at Sapporo and Tateno, although it has positive biases at 10–20 ppb. GEOS-Chem

349 reproduces the observed middle and upper tropospheric ozone at Hong Kong and
350 Sepang, although it has an overestimate in the lower troposphere, consistent with the
351 bias shown in Fig. 6c.

352 Figure 6d–f also compares the modeled CO with the MOZAIC data. Similar to the
353 evaluation results for surface CO, GEOS-Chem generally underestimates the MOZAIC
354 CO at most heights above the three airports, although it captures the vertical shape fairly
355 well.

356 *3.3 Summarizing remark on model evaluation*

357 Our simulation has a small NMB for surface ozone, at about 10% averaged over 10
358 sites with hourly data (Fig. 4 and Table 3) and about 15% averaged over 21 sites with
359 monthly data from EANET and the literature (Table 4). The model also captures the
360 general vertical distribution of ozone at ten places over China and nearby regions, with
361 a tropospheric mean bias at 12%. These agreements allow using the model for source
362 attribution studies in the next sections. On the other hand, with a horizontal resolution
363 of about 50 km over Asia, the model often fails to simulate the complex terrains, local
364 meteorological conditions, and/or local emission characteristics at several hilly or
365 airport sites. The model also tends to overestimate the STE influences over Asia.
366 Addressing these issues warrant future research with improved model resolutions and
367 STE representation.

368 GEOS-Chem tends to underestimate CO over Asia (by 20% on average), similar to
369 many other models (Kopacz et al., 2010; Young et al., 2013). We conduct a sensitivity
370 simulation by doubling Chinese anthropogenic CO emissions, which result in a slight
371 increase in surface ozone by 0.1–0.4 ppb and 2–3 ppb over clean and polluted areas of
372 China, respectively. The low sensitivity of ozone to CO emissions was also found by
373 Jiang et al. (2015). We thus conclude that our ozone simulations over China are
374 influenced insignificantly by the underestimate in CO.

375 **4. Source attribution modeling for surface ozone over China**

376 *4.1 Total, background and natural ozone*

377 Figure 8a shows the modeled spatial distribution of near-surface daily mean ozone in
378 spring 2008 over China from all natural and anthropogenic sources, i.e., the CTL case.
379 Ozone concentrations reach 75–80 ppb over the southern Tibetan Plateau, and they are
380 minimum (25–40 ppb) over the North China Plain and many populous cities across
381 eastern China. Ozone are about 45–60 ppb over the vast southeast, northwest and
382 northeast.

383 The simulated natural ozone (i.e., without anthropogenic emissions worldwide, the
384 xANTH case) shows a strong gradient from the southern Tibetan Plateau (65–75 ppb)
385 to the northwest (35–40 ppb) and the east (20–35 ppb) (Fig. 8c). Wang et al. (2011)

386 shows similar gradients of natural ozone in 2006. Natural ozone contributes 80–90% of
387 total surface ozone over Tibet and the northwest with low local anthropogenic
388 emissions. The large natural ozone concentrations over Tibet are a result of vertical
389 transport from the free troposphere and stratosphere due to its high altitudes and hilly
390 terrains (that are conducive to vertical exchange) (Ding and Wang, 2006; Lin et al.,
391 2015; Xu et al., 2017). They pose potential threats for public health and ecosystems
392 there.

393 The simulated background ozone (i.e., without Chinese anthropogenic emissions, the
394 xCH case) is shown in Fig. 8b. The background ozone is higher than the natural ozone
395 by 2–11 ppb over most Chinese regions (Fig. 9b). This indicates large influences of
396 foreign anthropogenic emissions through atmospheric transport of ozone and its
397 precursors, as discussed in detail below.

398 *4.2 Domestic versus foreign anthropogenic contributions to ozone*

399 Figure 9a shows the spatial distribution of domestic anthropogenic contributions to
400 daily mean surface ozone over China (difference between the control run and the
401 sensitivity simulation, CTL – xCH, followed by a linear weighting adjustment). Over
402 most of the west and northeast, Chinese anthropogenic emissions are relatively low,
403 and they result in ozone concentrations by 0–4 ppb. In contrast, domestic contributions
404 reach 16–25 ppb over the south due to more emissions and favorable conditions for
405 photochemistry. Over the North China Plain and many populous cities, Chinese
406 anthropogenic emissions lead to reductions (instead of enhancements) of surface ozone.
407 This is because of a weak ozone production efficiency and a strong titration effect by
408 excessive domestic NO_x emissions. Figure 9d–f shows that when Ox (= O₃ + NO₂) is
409 considered, Chinese anthropogenic contributions vary from 2–4 ppb over the west to
410 6–12 ppb over the North China Plain and to 20–35 ppb over the southeast (Fig. 9d).

411 Figure 9b shows the simulated contributions to Chinese surface ozone by all foreign
412 anthropogenic emissions. Foreign contributions reach 7–11 ppb along much of Chinese
413 borders, and they exceed 6 ppb over the vast northern regions. The foreign contribution
414 reduces from the border to the inner areas, with a minimum (2–3 ppb) over the Sichuan
415 Basin where the air is more isolated. In terms of anthropogenic ozone, foreign
416 contributions account for up to 90% over most of western and northeastern China (Fig.
417 9c), consistent with the findings by Li et al. (2015) for western China in 2000. Foreign
418 anthropogenic contributions to Ox over China are similar to their contributions to ozone
419 (Fig. 9e), except at places with strong Chinese NO_x emissions that lead to titration of
420 ozone.

421 Figure 10 further shows the contributions to Chinese surface ozone by anthropogenic
422 emissions in seven individual foreign regions. The pattern of influence differs among
423 these source regions due to differences in the location of source region, emission
424 magnitude, pollutant lifetimes and transport pathways. Anthropogenic emissions in
425 Japan and Korea result in 0.6–2.1 ppb of ozone enhancement along the Chinese coast.

426 The tagged ozone simulation with NAQPMS by Li et al. (2016) also showed that about
427 0.5–3.0 ppb of ozone over northeastern China in spring 2010 were produced over Korea
428 peninsula, although there is a difference between ozone produced over a region and
429 ozone produced from that region’s emissions. Emissions from South-East Asia
430 contribute 1–5 ppb over much of the southern provinces. Emissions from South Asia
431 mostly affect southwestern China and Tibet (by up to 5–10 ppb over the border), due to
432 effective transport by strong southwesterly associated with the Indian Monsoon. The
433 “Rest of Asia” consists of many countries to the west of China, whose total
434 contributions are about 2–5 ppb over much of northwestern China.

435 European anthropogenic emissions contribute 2.1–3.0 ppb of ozone along the northern
436 border of China. The contributions decrease southward, and are above 1 ppb over half
437 of Chinese land areas. The Model for Ozone and Related chemical Tracers (MOZART)
438 simulations by Li et al. (2015) also showed a European contribution by 2 ppb to surface
439 ozone over North China in 2000. North American anthropogenic emissions increase
440 ozone by 1.8–2.7 ppb over much of western China, by 1.5–2.1 ppb over the populous
441 North China Plain, and by less than 0.9 ppb over the south. The contributions are
442 smaller than springtime Asian anthropogenic influences on western North America
443 (e.g., 1–5 ppb averaged over 2001–2005 (Brown-Steiner and Hess, 2011b)), although
444 the affected population is larger by roughly an order of magnitude.

445 Influences from “Rest of World” are about 0.6–1.2 ppb over Tibet and smaller over
446 other Chinese land territory. The larger values over Tibet reflect its higher altitude and
447 greater sensitivity to long-range transport via the free troposphere.

448 Figure 11a shows whether domestic or foreign anthropogenic contributions are higher
449 at individual locations. Domestic anthropogenic contributions are higher than foreign
450 contributions over southern China and parts of northern China. However, foreign
451 anthropogenic contributions exceed domestic contributions over western China and
452 most of the north, including the populated North China Plain. Over western China,
453 foreign emissions contribute 70–90% of the total anthropogenic ozone (Fig. 9c).

454 Figure 11b further highlights the largest foreign contributor to surface anthropogenic
455 ozone at each location of China. North America is the largest foreign contributor over
456 about half of Chinese land territory, including the populated North China Plain. Europe
457 is the largest foreign contributor for the vast northeastern region, Rest of Asia for the
458 western border region, South Asia for southwestern China, South-East Asia for
459 southern China, and Japan and Korea for the eastern coast of China.

460 *4.3 Discussion of source attribution with an alternative 20% perturbation method, on* 461 *extreme ozone, and on other years*

462 The HTAP and several other studies have used 20% perturbation simulations (i.e.,
463 reducing anthropogenic emissions in each source region by 20%) to study the
464 transboundary ozone problem. Such studies are source-receptor analyses that are more

465 relevant to the question of how much a modest cut in foreign emissions would reduce
466 ozone pollution over a targeted receptor region. To compare with such a method, here
467 we ran one more set of full chemistry simulations by decreasing 20% anthropogenic
468 emissions over each of the eight emission source regions (see the detailed information
469 in Table A2). We also applied the linear weighting method to account for the non-
470 linearity of ozone chemistry. Figures 9a and 12a compare the Chinese anthropogenic
471 contributed ozone calculated from zero-out and from 20%-perturbation simulations.
472 Compared to the zero-out method, the 20% perturbation method leads to less Chinese
473 contributed ozone, with negative values over more regions and smaller positive values
474 over southern China. This result confirms our general finding that in spring 2008, the
475 excessive domestic NO_x emissions lead to relatively weak ozone production and/or
476 strong ozone titration. Comparing with the zero-out method, the absolute foreign
477 anthropogenic ozone obtained from 20%-perturbation simulations are smaller by 2–3
478 ppb over the northern border of China (comparing Figs. 9b and 12b), whereas the
479 percentage foreign contributions increase from 10–20% to 20–40% over southeastern
480 China (comparing Fig 9c and 12c). Nonetheless, the spatial patterns are similar
481 between the two methods for both the absolute and the relative foreign contributions.

482 As peak ozone is a critical problem for human health, here we show the domestic versus
483 foreign contributions to modeled extreme ozone values in spring 2008 (defined as the
484 average of the top 5% hourly ozone concentrations) (Fig. 12d–f). As expected, Chinese
485 domestic contribution is larger for extreme ozone than for mean ozone; the negative
486 values also disappear over North China Plain and Northeast China (comparing Fig. 9a
487 and 12d). The absolute foreign contribution (in ppb) is also enhanced across China
488 (comparing Fig. 9b and 12e). The percentage foreign contribution is within 10% over
489 southern China, about 10–50% over the north, and above 70% over the west.
490 Nevertheless, these results for extreme ozone should be interpreted with more caution,
491 as the model cannot simulate the dates of extreme ozone very well (Fig. 4).

492 Previous studies have shown notable interannual variability in surface ozone over
493 China driven by changes in precursor emissions and meteorology (Xu et al., 2008; Jin
494 et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2017). To test how the interannual variability of meteorology
495 and emissions would affect our source attribution findings, we have repeated all zero-
496 out runs for spring 2012, the latest year when the GEOS-5 meteorological fields are
497 available. Emissions for 2012 were adopted from the Community Emissions Data
498 System (CEDS) inventory (Hoesly et al., 2018); 2012 is also the latest year the CEDS
499 emissions for China are adjusted by the MEIC inventory. Table 5 shows the
500 anthropogenic emissions in the two years. All zero-out simulation results in 2012
501 underwent the same linear weighting adjustment as for those in 2008. Figure 12g–i
502 show the results for domestic versus foreign contributed ozone in spring 2012, as
503 compared to the results for spring 2008 (Fig. 9a–c). In absolute terms, Chinese
504 contributed ozone are similar between 2008 and 2012 (comparing Fig. 12g and Fig.
505 9a), reflecting the slight changes in domestic precursor emissions (Table 5). From 2008
506 to 2012, the absolute foreign contributed ozone increase along the southern boarder
507 due to much enhanced emissions in South-East Asia and South Asia. The absolute
508 foreign contributions decrease over the north and south, reflecting the net effect of

509 changes in European and North American emissions (within 20% for both NO_x and
510 NMVOC), increased emissions in Rest of Asia, and changes in meteorology. In relative
511 terms (Figs. 9c and 12i), the percentage foreign anthropogenic contributions to total
512 anthropogenic ozone decrease from 2008 to 2012 over southern China. Nonetheless,
513 in both years the percentage foreign contributions exceed 50% over western China and
514 are 5–40% over southern China. Therefore our general finding that both foreign and
515 domestic contributions to Chinese anthropogenic ozone are important holds true for
516 these two years.

517 **5. Vertical distributions of domestic and foreign anthropogenic contributions**

518 Figure 13a shows the domestic and foreign anthropogenic contributions to daily mean
519 ozone at different heights above the ground averaged over China. The black line shows
520 that Chinese emissions contribute 6.0–10.5 ppb of ozone below 2 km over China, with
521 a maximum value at 0.7 km. This average amount of contribution reflects compensation
522 between positive values over most regions and negative values over the North China
523 Plain and many populous cities (see Sect. 4.2). Above 0.7 km, Chinese contribution
524 decreases rapidly until 3 ppb at 5 km, above which height the contribution declines
525 slowly until a value at 1 ppb at 12 km. By comparison, Chinese contribution to Ox is
526 about 7–11 ppb below 2 km, and at higher altitudes the contribution is almost identical
527 to that for ozone (not shown). The small contributions above 2 km for both ozone and
528 Ox are because as ozone and precursors associated with Chinese emissions are lifted to
529 higher altitudes, they are transported out of Chinese territory and destroyed gradually.

530 The grey line in Fig. 13a shows that the total foreign contribution is about 5.2–7.8 ppb
531 at different heights with a reverse “C” shape, i.e., higher values at 3–9 km and lower
532 values above or below that layer. The foreign contribution exceeds Chinese
533 contribution at all heights above 2 km. Nonetheless, the total (Chinese + foreign)
534 anthropogenic ozone is less than one third of natural ozone throughout the troposphere.
535 Figure 11c shows that of ozone over China produced from all anthropogenic emissions,
536 foreign emissions together contribute 50% at the surface, 40% at 0.7 km as a minimum,
537 and 85% in the upper troposphere.

538 Figure 13b specifies the contribution of each foreign emission source region. Figure
539 13c further separates the portion of ozone produced within each source region’s
540 territory from the portion produced outside of that source region; results here were
541 derived from a combination of zero-out simulations (e.g., CTL and xEU) and tagged
542 simulations (e.g., T_CTL and T_xEU). South-East Asian contribution is about 0.5–2.5
543 ppb averaged over China, and it increases with height due to strong upwelling that lifts
544 pollutants to the middle and upper troposphere. The contribution from Japan and Korea
545 is below 0.5 ppb throughout the troposphere averaged over China (Fig. 13b). The share
546 of transboundary ozone produced within South-East Asian territory and transported to
547 China is about 10–45% (mostly below 30%), and the share for ozone produced within
548 Japan and Korea is even smaller (5–25%) (Fig. 13c), highlighting the importance of
549 ozone produced by precursors transported out of these two emission source regions.

550 South Asian contribution is only about 0.5–1.2 ppb throughout the troposphere (Fig.
551 13b). Although South Asia has more anthropogenic emissions than South-East Asia
552 (Table 2), its contribution to ozone over China is smaller due to blocking of transport
553 by the Himalayas with high elevation (Fig. 3). In addition, the share of transboundary
554 ozone produced within South Asian territory reaches 70–90% below 6 km but declines
555 rapidly to 28% at 12 km (Fig. 13c), a characteristic drastically different from the share
556 for South-East Asia.

557 The contribution from Rest of Asia is below 1.8 ppb at all heights with a negative
558 vertical gradient (Fig. 13b). Above 3 km, the portion of transboundary ozone produced
559 within the territory of Rest of Asia is similar to that for South Asia (Fig. 13c). However,
560 the portion exhibits a strong vertical gradient below 3 km, with a minimum value at 45%
561 near the ground.

562 European contribution declines from 1.5 ppb in the lower troposphere to 0.2 ppb at 12
563 km, similar to that for Rest of Asia (Fig. 13b). In spring, Eurasian frontal activities
564 transport and gradually lift European pollutants to downwind areas. The portion of
565 transboundary ozone produced within European territory is about 55–65% at 3–10 km
566 but is as low as 20% below 1 km (Fig. 13c), suggesting that most Europe-contributed
567 near-surface ozone over China are produced from precursors transported out of Europe.

568 Figure 13b shows that North American anthropogenic emissions contribute about 1.5–
569 2.5 ppb of ozone below 8 km, although the contribution declines rapidly to 0.2 ppb at
570 12 km. Compared to Europe, North America is further away from China, but its
571 pollutants can be transported via the strong mid-latitude westerly. Averaged over China,
572 North American contribution is larger than European contribution at all heights, e.g.,
573 by a factor of two in the middle and upper troposphere. The higher contribution is due
574 to much more anthropogenic emissions in North America than in Europe. Table 3 shows
575 that North America emits NMVOC nearly twice as much as Europe does; and Wu et al.
576 (2009) showed that the amount of transboundary ozone is nearly proportional to
577 NMVOC emissions of the source region. In addition, Fig. 13c shows that the portion of
578 transboundary ozone produced within North American territory is only about 5–20%
579 below 8 km, reflecting the dominant contribution by ozone produced from transported
580 precursors. The low share of ozone produced within North America is primarily
581 because most of such ozone is destroyed during the transport from North America to
582 China (for about two weeks), given the tropospheric lifetime of ozone at about three
583 weeks (Yan et al., 2016).

584 The grey line in Fig. 13c shows the average portion of transboundary ozone from all
585 foreign source regions that is produced within the territories of respective foreign
586 regions. The average portion is less than 50% throughout the troposphere, is about 40%
587 at 2 km, and is as low as 25% near the surface. This again highlights the dominant
588 importance of ozone production along with the transport of precursors.

589 Figure 14 further shows the vertical profiles of ozone from different sources averaged
590 over regions where Chinese anthropogenic emissions contribute more surface ozone
591 than total foreign anthropogenic emissions (i.e., southern China, Fig. 14a, b), as well
592 as averaged over regions where foreign anthropogenic emissions dominate (Fig. 14c,
593 d). Even over areas where domestic contributions to near-surface ozone exceed total
594 foreign contributions, the regional average ozone contributed by foreign emissions
595 exceeds those contributed by domestic emissions above 3.5 km (Fig. 14a). Figure 14b
596 and d further shows that the (relative) vertical shape of regional average ozone
597 contributed by each foreign source region is similar to the shape of China averaged
598 results in Fig. 13b, although the absolute values (in ppb) are different.

599 **6. Conclusions**

600 This study uses a GEOS-Chem based two-way coupled modeling system to simulate
601 Chinese and foreign anthropogenic contributions to springtime ozone at different
602 heights over China. Anthropogenic contributions are associated with anthropogenic
603 NO_x, CO and NMVOC emissions, excluding the effect of methane. We combine the
604 zero-out simulations and tagged ozone simulations to separate the transboundary ozone
605 produced within the territory of each emission source region from the ozone produced
606 by anthropogenic precursors transported out of that source region. We use a weighting
607 approach to accounting for the effect of nonlinear ozone chemistry on source attribution
608 estimates. Model evaluation using a suite of ground, aircraft and ozonesonde
609 measurements show an overall small bias for ozone near the surface and in the
610 troposphere (10% at 10 surface sites with hourly measurements, 15% at 21 surface sites
611 with monthly observations, and 12% for vertical profiles). The model underestimates
612 CO by 20% on average over China and nearby areas, which however does not affect
613 the simulated ozone significantly.

614 Model simulations reveal that both total and natural ozone near the surface over China
615 show a decreasing gradient from the southern Tibetan Plateau to the northwest and the
616 east. Natural ozone contributes 80–90% of total surface ozone over Tibet and the
617 northwest with low local anthropogenic emissions. Chinese anthropogenic emissions
618 enhance surface ozone concentrations by 0–4 ppb over most of the west and northeast
619 due to low emissions and by 16–25 ppb over the south due to more emissions and
620 chemically conducive conditions. Chinese anthropogenic emissions result in reduced
621 ozone, albeit with enhanced O_x, over the North China Plain and many populous cities,
622 as a result of weak ozone production efficiency and strong titration by excessive
623 Chinese NO_x emissions.

624 Near the surface, foreign anthropogenic emissions contribute 2–11 ppb of Chinese
625 ozone, with peak contributions at 7–11 ppb over the border and coastal regions of China.
626 Over western and northeastern China, foreign emissions account for up to 90% of ozone
627 of anthropogenic origin. Anthropogenic emissions in Japan and Korea result in 0.6–2.1
628 ppb of ozone along the Chinese coast. Emissions in South-East Asia contribute 1–5 ppb
629 over much of southeastern China. South Asian emissions mostly affect southwestern

630 China and Tibet (by up to 5 ppb), due to effective transport by strong southwesterly
631 associated with the Indian Monsoon. European anthropogenic emissions contribute
632 2.1–3 ppb along the northern border of China and the contribution decreases southwards.
633 North American anthropogenic emissions increase ozone by 1.8–2.7 ppb over much of
634 the west, by 1.5–2.1 ppb over the populous North China Plain, and by less than 0.9 ppb
635 over the south.

636 Vertically, for ozone of anthropogenic origin averaged over China, Chinese emissions
637 contribute ~ 6 ppb (50%) of ozone at the surface, 6.0–10.5 ppb below 2 km, decreasing
638 to 3 ppb at 5 km and 1 ppb at 12 km. The total foreign contribution increases from 40–
639 50% below 2 km to 50–85% above that height. The contribution from Japan and Korea
640 is below 0.5 ppb throughout the troposphere averaged over China. Despite its large
641 emissions, South Asia contributes only about 0.5–1.2 ppb throughout the troposphere
642 due to blocking of transport by the Himalayas. South-East Asian contribution increases
643 with height due to strong upwelling that lifts pollutants to the upper troposphere. On
644 the contrary, European contributions decreases from 1.5 ppb in the lower troposphere
645 to 0.2 ppb at 12 km. Despite the long transport distance, North American contribution
646 reaches as much as 1.5–2.5 ppb below 8 km due to its large anthropogenic emissions
647 and the strong mid-latitude westerly favorable for transboundary transport.

648 For ozone of foreign anthropogenic origin averaged over China, the portion of
649 transboundary ozone produced within foreign source regions is less than 50%
650 throughout the troposphere, albeit with a strong vertical variability, indicating the
651 importance of ozone produced by precursors transported out of those source regions.
652 The portion also differs among each foreign source region of South-East Asia (10–45%)
653 and Japan and Korea (5–25%), South Asia (from 70–90% below 6 km to 28% at 12
654 km), Europe (from 20% below 1 km to 55–65% at 3–10 km), and North America (5–
655 20% below 8 km). Thus, tracing ozone produced within the territory of a particular
656 region is drastically different from tracing ozone associated with emissions in that
657 region.

658 In summary, although China is a major pollutant emitter, the ozone above its territory
659 consists primarily of natural sources, especially over western China with low local
660 anthropogenic emissions. Moreover, for ozone of anthropogenic origin, a large portion
661 results from foreign emissions, as analyzed here for spring 2008. In more recent years,
662 Chinese anthropogenic NO_x emissions have undergone a rapid decline as a result of
663 domestic emission control (Xia et al., 2016), along with continuous reductions in North
664 America and Western Europe (Yan et al., 2018a; 2018b) and changes in other regions.
665 Future research is needed to quantify the resulting changes in ozone and its
666 geographical origin. In addition, this study does not account for that a substantial
667 portion of anthropogenic emissions in any region are associated with economic
668 production for foreign consumption (Lin et al., 2014; Jiang et al., 2015a), which would
669 affect how pollution is attributed to individual producing or consuming regions (Guan
670 et al., 2014; Lin et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2017). Nevertheless, our study suggests the
671 great importance of global collaboration on emission reduction to mitigate ozone

672 pollution in addition to domestic emission control efforts.

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979 Table 1. Emissions used in the model.

Region	Inventory	Resolution ^a	Year	Species ^b	References & Notes
Anthropogenic emissions					
Global	EDGAR v4.2	0.1° x 0.1°, monthly	2008	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO, NH ₃	http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=42
Global	BOND	1° x 1°, monthly	2000	BC and OC	Bond et al. (2007)
Global	RETRO	0.5° x 0.5°, monthly	2000	NM VOC	ftp://ftp.retro.enes.org/pub/emissions/aggregated/anthro/0.5x0.5/2000/
Global	ICOADS, shipping	1° x 1°, monthly	2002	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO	Wang et al. (2008); http://coast.cms.udel.edu/GlobalShipEmissions/
Global	AEIC, aircraft	1° x 1°, annual	2005	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO, NM VOC, BC, OC	Simone et al. (2013)
Asia	INTEX-B	1° x 1°, monthly	2006	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO, NM VOC, BC, OC, NH ₃	Zhang et al. (2009). NH ₃ only available for 2000.
China	MEIC	0.25° x 0.25°, monthly	2008	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO, NM VOC, NH ₃	Li et al. (2017); Geng et al. (2017); http://www.meicmodel.org/ .
United States	NEI2005	4km x 4km, monthly & weekend/weekday	2005 ^c	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO, NM VOC, NH ₃ , BC, OC	ftp://aftp.fsl.noaa.gov/divisions/taq/emissions_data_2005
Canada	CAC	1° x 1°, annual	2008	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO, NH ₃	http://www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/cac/cac_home_e.cfm
Mexico	BRAVO	1° x 1°, annual	1999 ^c	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO	Kuhns et al. (2005)
Europe	EMEP	1° x 1°, monthly	2007	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO	Auvray and Bey (2005); http://www.emep.int/index.html
Biomass burning emissions					
Global	GFED3	0.5° x 0.5°, daily	2008	NO _x , SO ₂ , CO, NM VOC, NH ₃ , BC, OC	van der Werf et al., 2010; http://www.globalfiredata.org
Natural/Semi-natural emissions (online calculation)					
Global	MEGAN v2.1	Model resolution	2008	ISOP, monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, MOH, ACET, ETOH, CH ₂ O, ALD ₂ , HCOOH, C ₂ H ₄ , TOLU, PRPE	Guenther et al. (2012)
Global	Soil NO _x	Model resolution	2008	NO	Hudman et al. (2012)
Global	Lightning NO _x	Model resolution	2008	NO	Murray et al. (2012)

980 a. Before re-gridded to model horizontal resolutions. For more information, see
981 http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem/index.php/Anthropogenic_emissions.

982 b. Notes for NM VOC: RETRO includes PRPE, C₃H₈, ALK₄, ALD₂, CH₂O and
983 MEK; in the CTM, MEK emissions are further allocated to MEK (25%) and ACET
984 (75%). AEIC, INTEX-B and MEIC include PRPE, C₂H₆, C₃H₈, ALK₄, ALD₂,
985 CH₂O, MEK and ACET. NEI05 includes PRPE, C₃H₈, ALK₄, CH₂O, MEK and

986 ACET. EMEP includes PRPE, ALK4, ALD2 and MEK. Emissions of C₂H₆ outside
987 Asia are from Xiao et al. (2008).

988 c. Over the United States and Mexico, emissions of CO, NO_x are scaled to 2008 and
989 2006 respectively. ([http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-
990 chem/index.php/Scale_factors_for_anthropogenic_emissions](http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem/index.php/Scale_factors_for_anthropogenic_emissions)).

991 Table 2. Model simulations.

Full chemistry simulation	Description	Tagged ozone simulation	Description
CTL	Full-chemistry simulation with all emissions	T_CTL	Driven by daily ozone production and loss rate archived from CTL
xANTH	Without global anthropogenic emissions	T_xANTH	With respect to xANTH
xCH	Without anthropogenic emissions of China	T_xCH	With respect to xCH
xJAKO	Without anthropogenic emissions of Japan and Korea	T_xJAKO	With respect to xJAKO
xSEA	Without anthropogenic emissions of South-East Asia	T_xSEA	With respect to xSEA
xSA	Without anthropogenic emissions of South Asia	T_xSA	With respect to xSA
xROA	Without anthropogenic emissions of Rest of Asia	T_xROA	With respect to xROA
xEU	Without anthropogenic emissions of Europe	T_xEU	With respect to xEU
xNA	Without anthropogenic emissions of North America	T_xNA	With respect to xNA
xROW	Without anthropogenic emissions of Rest of World	T_xROW	With respect to xROW

992

993 Table 3. Comparison of simulated and observed springtime MDA8 ozone and CO at
 994 five regional background sites in China and six global background stations nearby
 995 China with hourly measurements.

Country	Site	Location	Year	MDA8 ozone			CO			References & Notes
				Obs (ppb)	Model (ppb)	NMB (%)	Obs (ppb)	Model (ppb)	NMB (%)	
	Gucheng	39.1°N, 115.7°E, 15m	2007	48.8	50.2	2.9				Lin et al., 2009
	Longfengshan	44.7°N, 127.6°E, 331m	2007	50.6	52.9	4.5	290	251	-13.4	
China	Lin'an	30.2°N, 119.7°E, 132m	2008	65.1	68.9	5.8	628	418	-33.4	Xu et al., 2008
	Shangri-La	28.0°N, 99.4°E, 3580m	2008	61.4	68.7	11.9	181	139	-23.2	Ma et al., 2014
	Waliguan	36.3°N, 100.9°E, 3816m	2008	56.5	64.4	14.0				Xu et al., 2016
Kyrgyzstan	Issyk-Kul	42.6°N, 77.0°E, 1640m	2008	52.8	59.0	11.7				
Nepal	Everest-Pyramid	28.0°N, 86.8°E, 5079m	2008	66.3	79.1	19.3				
Indonesia	Bukit Koto Tabang	0.2°S, 100.3°E, 865m	2008				141	146	3.5	http://ds.data.jma.go.jp/gmd/wdcgg/cgi-bin/wdcgg/catalogue.cgi
	Yonagunijima	24.5°N, 123.0°E, 30m	2008	54.8	56.4	2.9	208	157	-24.5	
Japan	Tsukuba	36.1°N, 140.1°E, 25m	2008	47.2	56.0	18.6				
	Ryori	39.0°N, 141.8°E, 260m	2008	54.6	54.7	0.2	211	203	-3.8	

997 Table 4. Comparison of simulated springtime monthly mean ozone with observations
 998 from EANET and literature.

Country	Site	Year	Location	Characteristics	Obs (ppb)	Model (ppb)	NMB (%)	References & Notes
Japan (EANET)	Rishiri	2008	45.5°N, 141.2°E, 40m	Remote	55.0	46.0	-16.5	
	Ochiishi	2008	43.1°N, 145.5°E, 49m	Remote	48.4	46.7	-3.6	
	Tappi	2008	41.3°N, 140.4°E, 105m	Remote	66.2	48.8	-26.2	
	Sado-seki	2008	38.2°N, 138.4°E, 136m	Remote	61.3	53.3	-13.0	
	Happo	2008	36.7°N, 137.8°E, 1850m	Remote	62.0	53.8	-13.2	
	Ijira	2008	35.6°N, 136.7°E, 140m	Rural	30.7	47.8	55.7	
	Oki	2008	36.3°N, 133.2°E, 90m	Remote	58.8	55.7	-5.3	
	Banryu	2008	34.7°N, 131.8°E, 53m	Urban	48.5	52.1	7.5	http://www.eanet.asia/product/index.html
	Yusuhara	2008	33.4°N, 132.9°E, 790m	Remote	53.7	53.1	-1.1	
	Hedo	2008	26.9°N, 128.3°E, 60m	Remote	53.6	54.2	1.1	
	Ogasawara	2008	27.1°N, 142.2°E, 230m	Remote	37.9	41.1	8.3	
Republic of Korea (EANET)	Kanghwa	2008	37.7°N, 126.3°E, 150m	Rural	52.3	47.4	-9.4	
	Cheju	2008	33.3°N, 126.2°E, 72m	Remote	56.3	57.7	2.5	
	Imsil	2008	35.6°N, 127.2°E	Rural	30.3	48.2	58.8	
Russia (EANET)	Mondy	2008	51.7°N, 101.0°E, 2000m	Remote	43.0	49.2	14.4	
China (literature)	Miyun	2006	40.5°N, 116.8°E, 152m	Rural	48.7	35.3	-27.4	Wang et al. (2011)
	Mt. Tai	2004	24.25°N, 117.10°E, 1533m	Rural	57.0	54.8	-3.9	
	Mt. Hua	2004	34.49°N, 110.09°E, 2064m	Rural	50.0	51.8	3.5	Li et al. (2007)
	Mt. Huang	2004	30.13°N, 118.15°E, 1836m	Rural	59.3	54.0	-9.0	
	Hok Tsui, HongKong	1994-2007	22.2°N, 114.2°E, 60m	Rural	36.0	53.4	48.2	Wang et al. (2009)
	Nanjing	2000-2002	32.1°N, 118.7°E	Urban	27.0	31.3	16.0	Tu et al. (2007)

1000 Table 5. Springtime anthropogenic emissions of NO_x, CO and NMVOC in 2008 and
 1001 2012 in each source region defined in Fig. 1.

2008	China	Japan and Korea	South-East Asia	South Asia	Rest of Asia	Europe	North America	Rest of world
NO _x (TgN)	2.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.0
CO (Tg)	42.3	1.7	10.9	16.7	10.0	12.5	17.7	25.5
NMVOC (TgC)	2.9	0.2	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	2.1	1.9
2012								
NO _x (TgN)	2.2	0.3	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.5
CO (Tg)	39.2	2.4	15.4	21.3	8.9	7.9	13.1	38.0
NMVOC (TgC)	3.0	0.2	3.0	2.4	2.3	1.2	1.8	6.8

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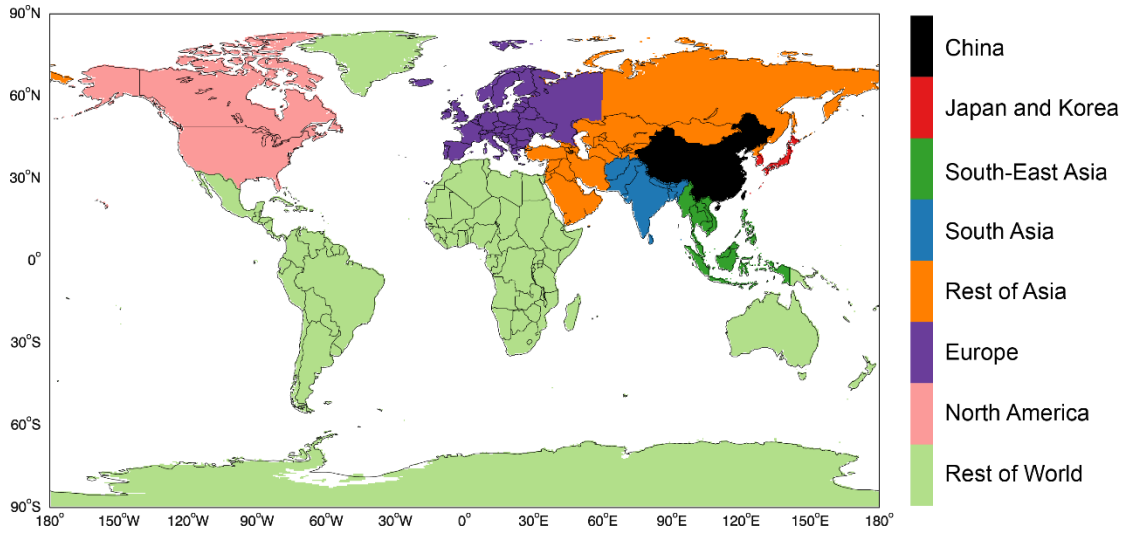
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1019 Figure 1. Eight emission source regions.

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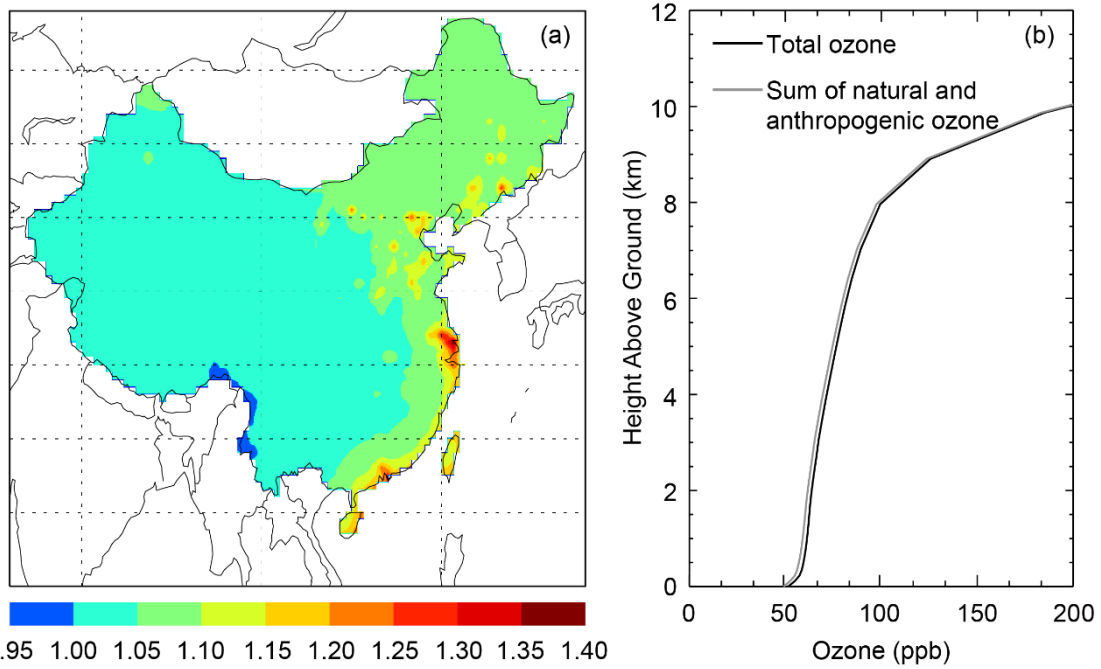
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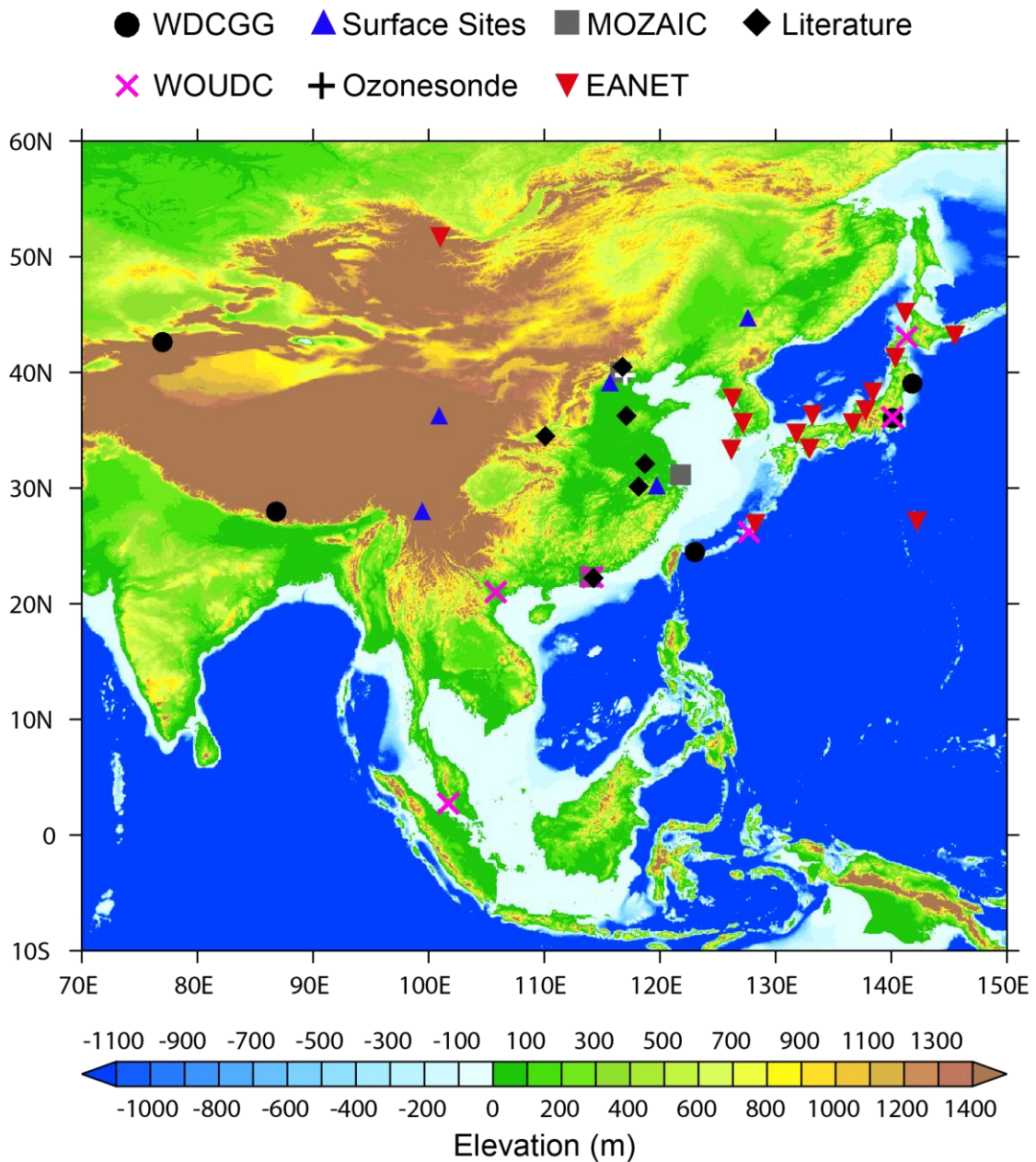
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0.95 1.00 1.05 1.10 1.15 1.20 1.25 1.30 1.35 1.40

1037 Figure 2. (a) Spatial distribution of the ratio of total surface ozone in CTL to the pre-
 1038 linear-weighting-adjustment sum of natural ozone, domestic anthropogenic ozone and
 1039 foreign anthropogenic ozone; (b) Vertical profile of China average total ozone from
 1040 CTL and the profile of pre-linear-weighting-adjustment sum of natural ozone,
 1041 domestic anthropogenic ozone and foreign anthropogenic ozone.



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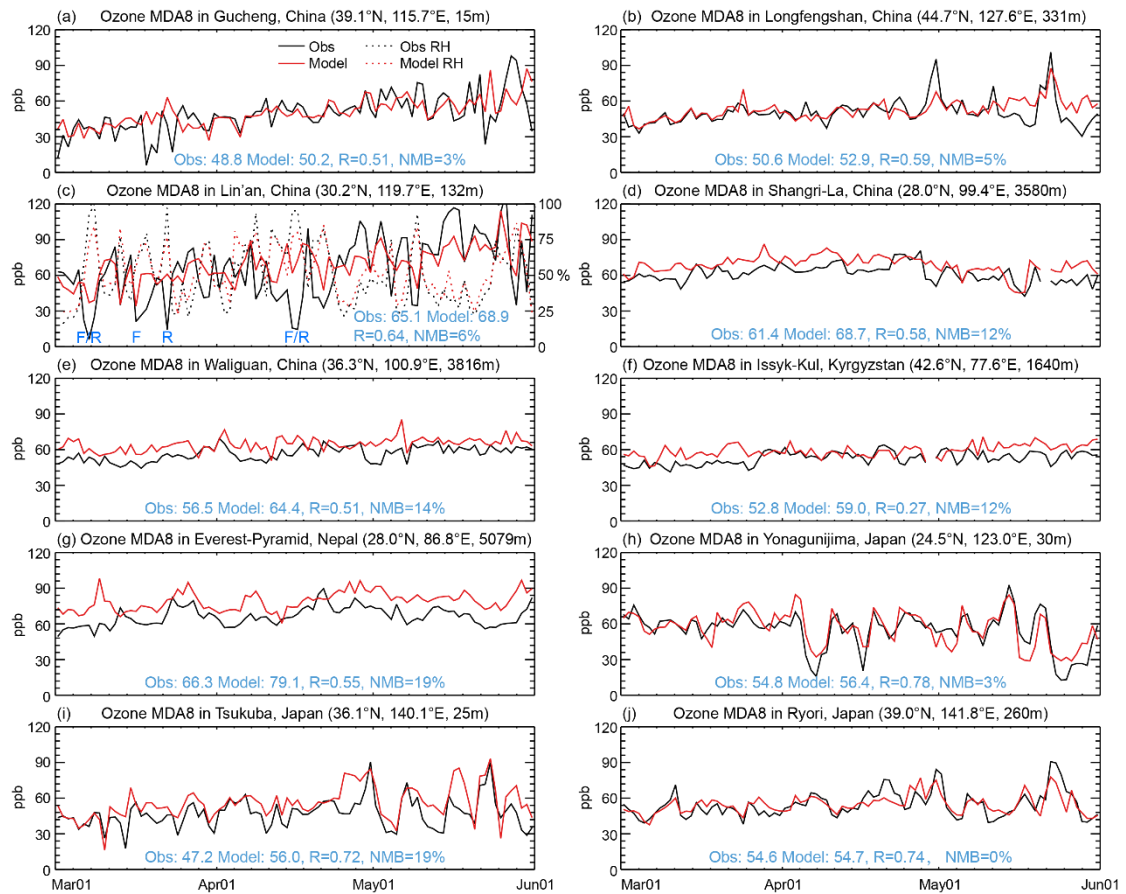
1043 Figure 3. Observation sites overlaying upon the surface elevation map from the 2 min
 1044 Gridded Global Relief Data (ETOPO2v2) available at NGDC Marine Trackline
 1045 Geophysical database (<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/etopo2.html>).

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1051 Figure 4. Time series of springtime MDA8 ozone at surface sites over (a–e) China and
 1052 (f–j) nearby countries. Due to lack of measurement data in 2008, comparisons at
 1053 Gucheng and Longfengshan are based in 2007. In (c), observed and modeled RH are
 1054 also compared; and the “F” and “R” symbols denote observed frog or rain,
 1055 respectively.

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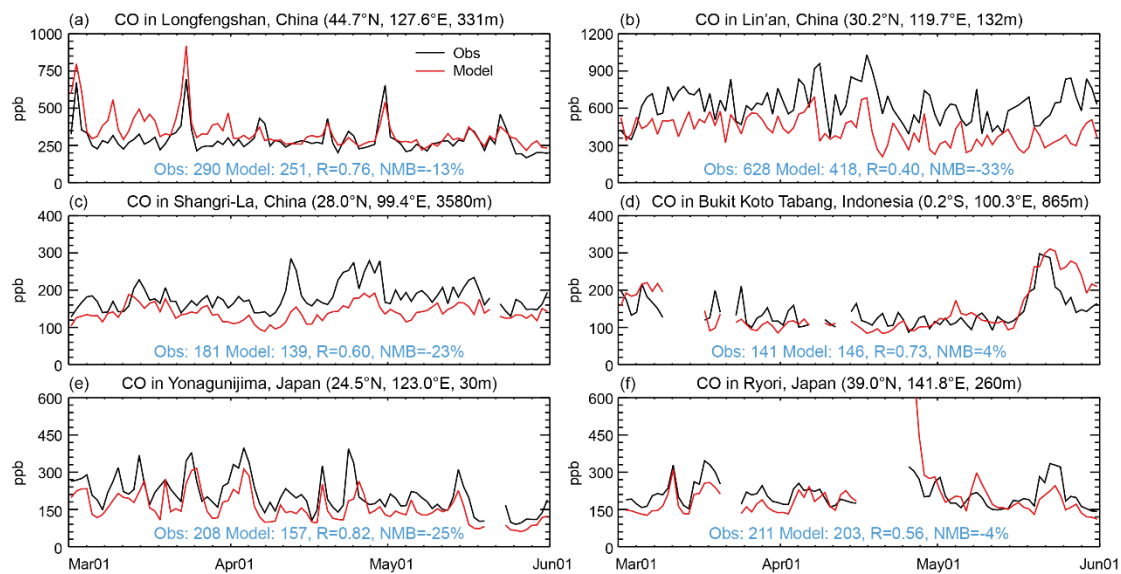
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1064 Figure 5. Time series of daily mean CO at six surface sites over (a–c) China and (d–f)
 1065 nearby countries.

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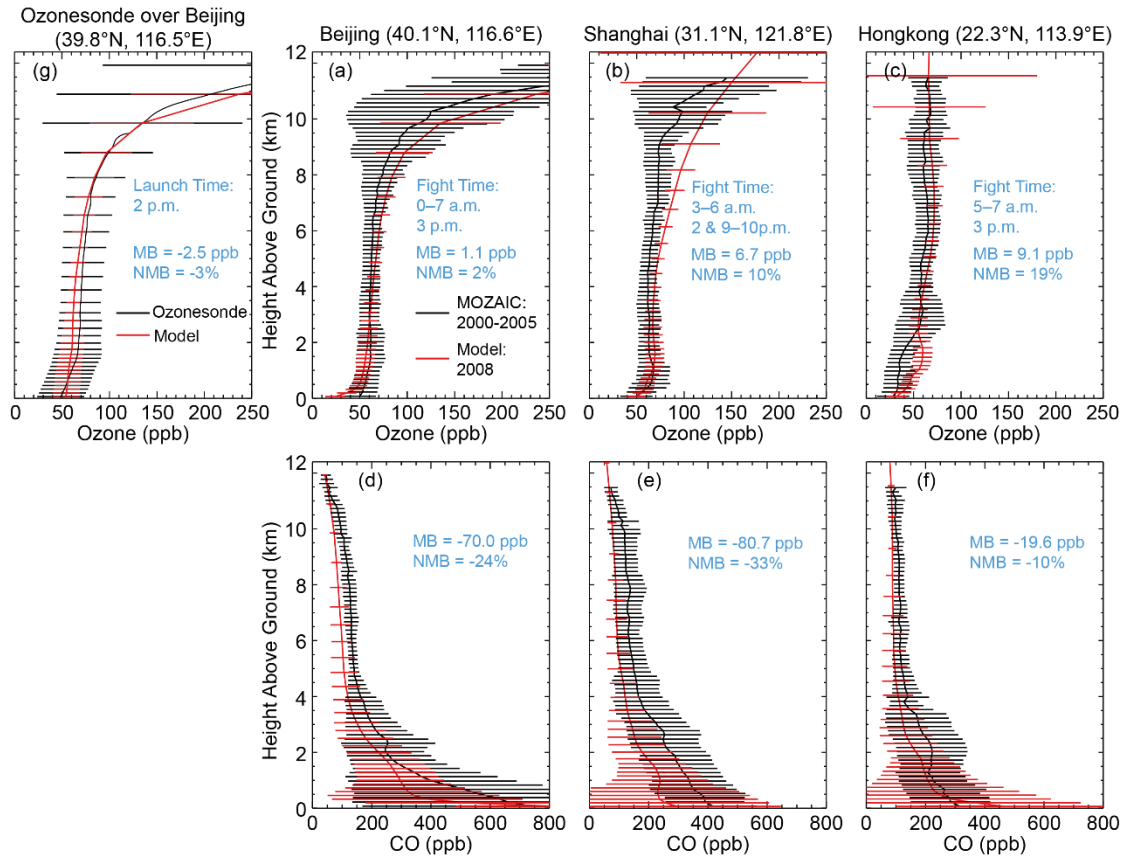
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1079 Figure 6. Model and MOZAIC vertical profiles of (a–c) ozone and (d–f) CO over
 1080 airports of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong, averaged over multiple profiles. (g)
 1081 Model and GPSO3 ozonesonde data over Beijing in spring 2008. Horizontal bars
 1082 indicate one standard deviation across multiple profiles. Mean bias (MB), normalized
 1083 mean bias (NMB), main fight times (local time) at each MOZAIC site and GPSO3
 1084 ozonesonde launch time (local time) are also shown.

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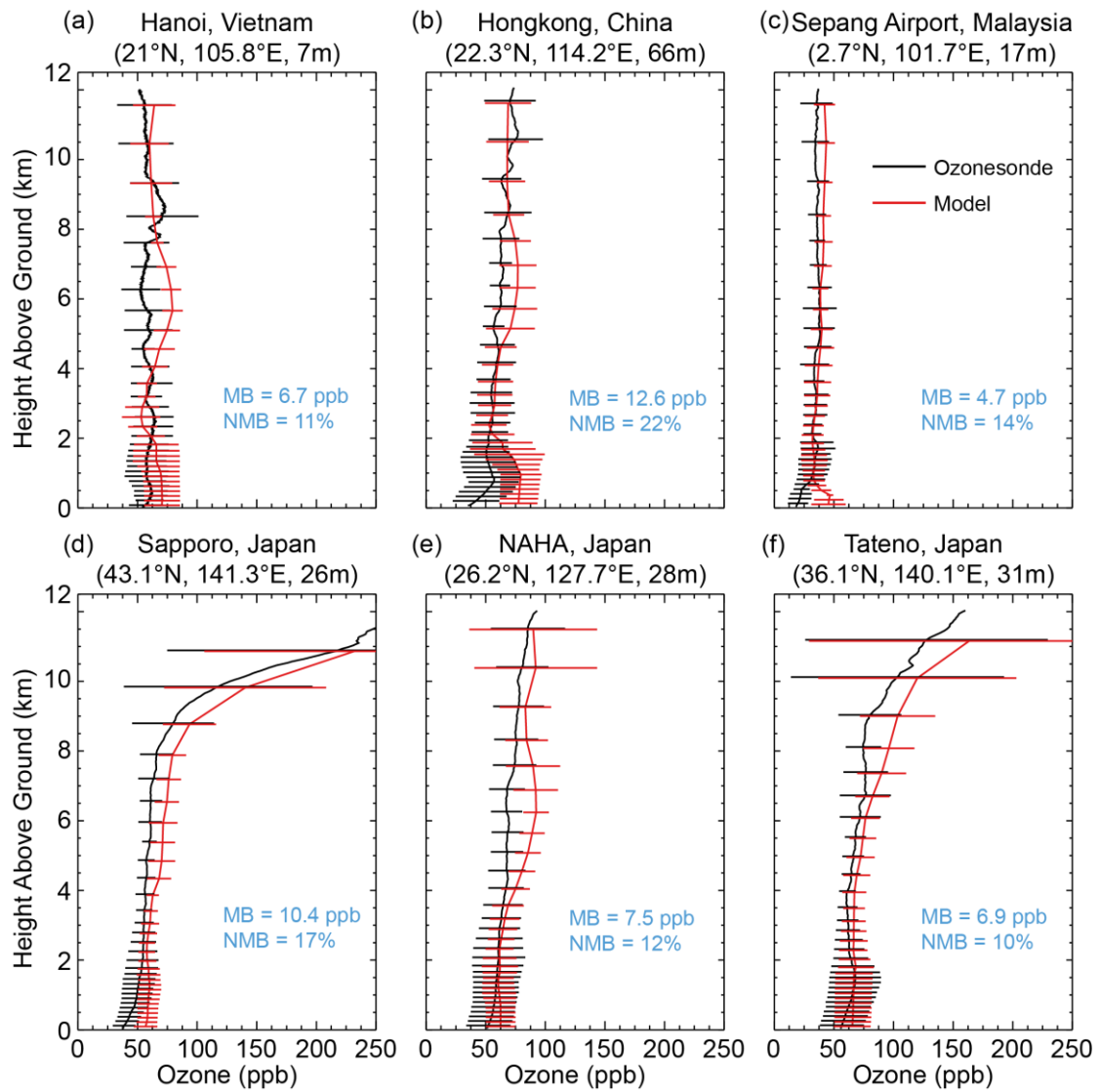
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1092 Figure 7. Model and WOUDC ozone profiles at six sites, averaged over multiple
 1093 profiles. Horizontal lines indicate one standard deviation across multiple profiles.
 1094 Mean bias (MB) and normalized mean bias (NMB) are shown in blue.

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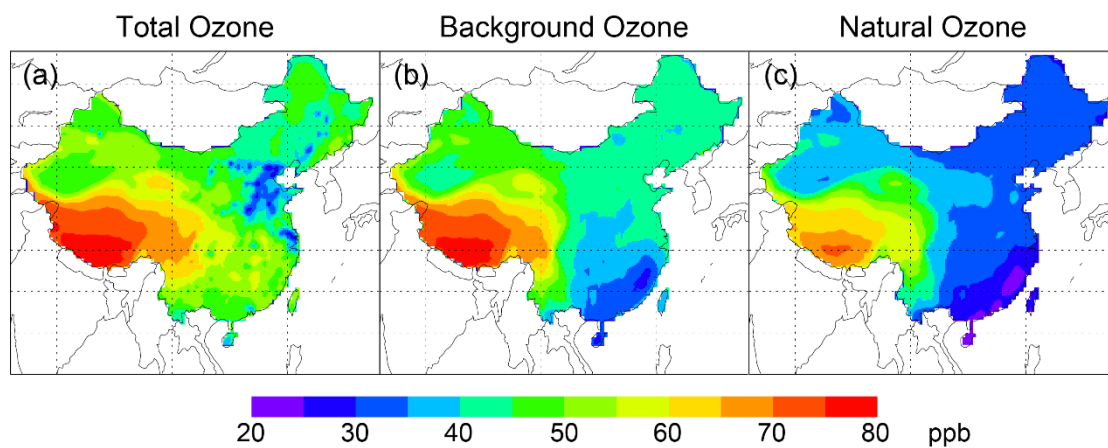
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1102 Figure 8. Spatial distribution of springtime daily mean (a) total surface ozone, (b)
 1103 background ozone and (c) natural ozone over China.

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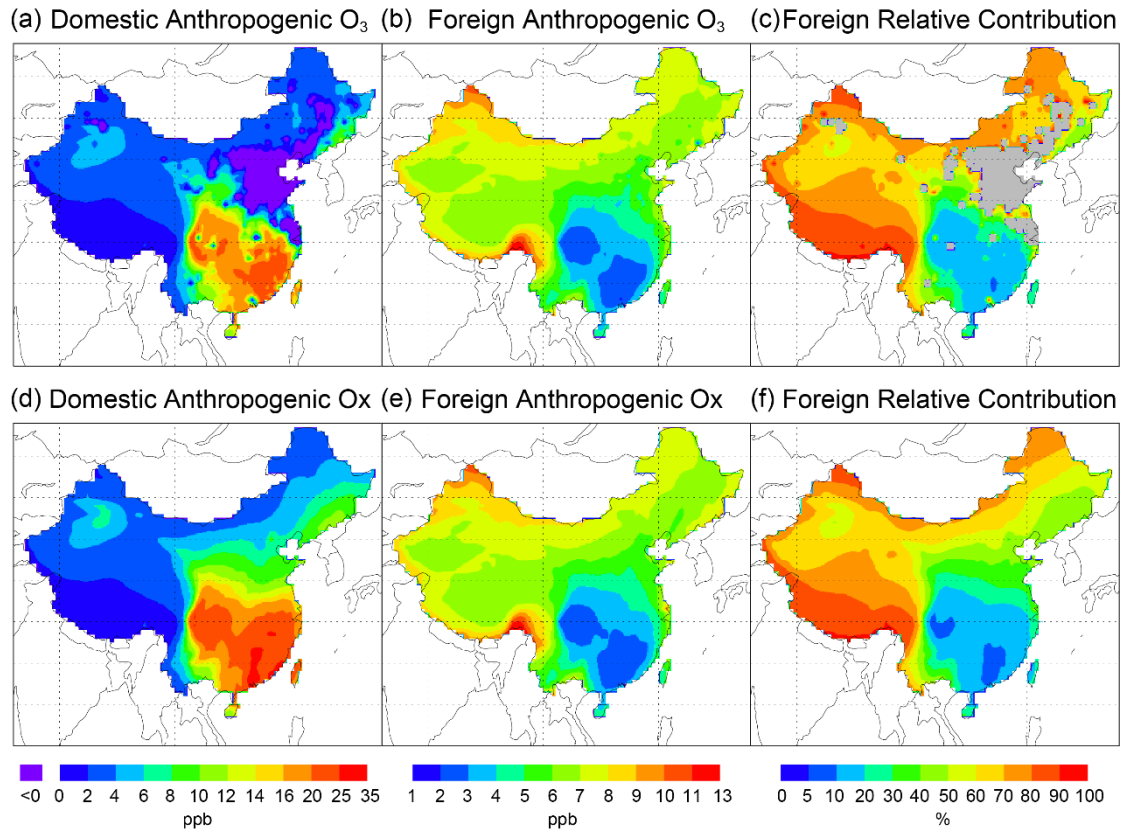
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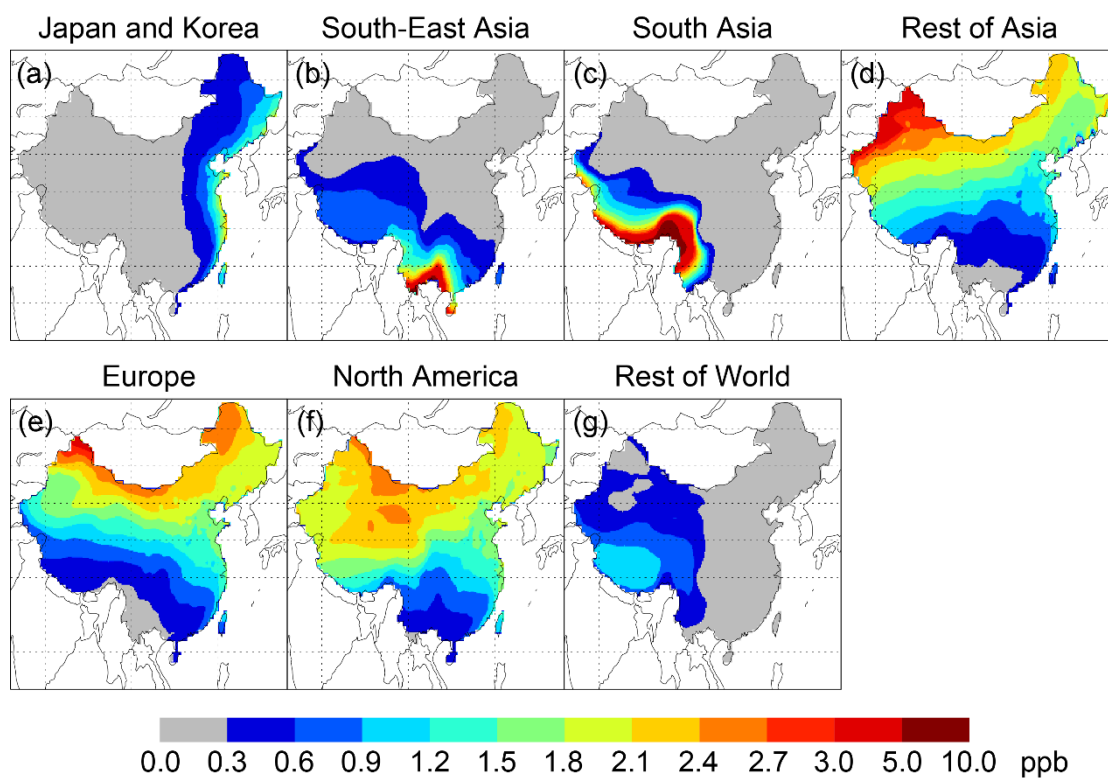
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1119 Figure 9. Spatial distribution of springtime daily mean surface ozone over China
 1120 contributed by (a) domestic and (b) foreign anthropogenic emissions. (c) Percentage
 1121 contribution of foreign anthropogenic emissions to total anthropogenic ozone; areas
 1122 with negative Chinese contributions (due to NO_x titration) are marked in grey. (d–f)
 1123 similar to (a–c) but for Ox (= O₃ + NO₂). The linear weighting adjustment is applied
 1124 to derive all results. Note that the color scales are different between (a, d) and (b, e).

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1129 Figure 10. Spatial distribution of springtime daily mean surface ozone over China
 1130 contributed by anthropogenic emissions of individual regions. The ozone
 1131 enhancement over China by anthropogenic emissions of each region is determined by
 1132 difference between the base case simulation CTL and zero-out simulation without that
 1133 region's anthropogenic emissions, followed by the linear weighting adjustment.

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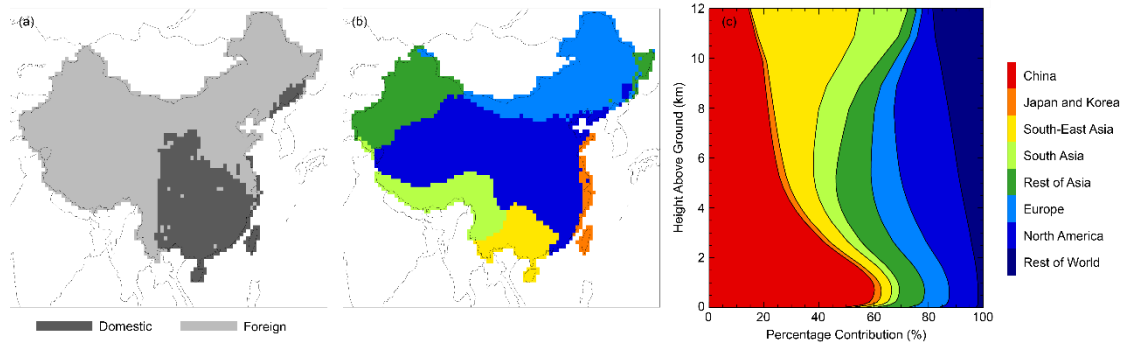
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1144 Figure 11. (a) Indication of the largest anthropogenic contributor (domestic or
 1145 foreign) to surface ozone at individual locations of China. (b) Indication of the largest
 1146 foreign anthropogenic contributor to surface ozone at individual locations of China.
 1147 (c) Vertical distribution of percentage contribution of each region to total
 1148 anthropogenic ozone over China.

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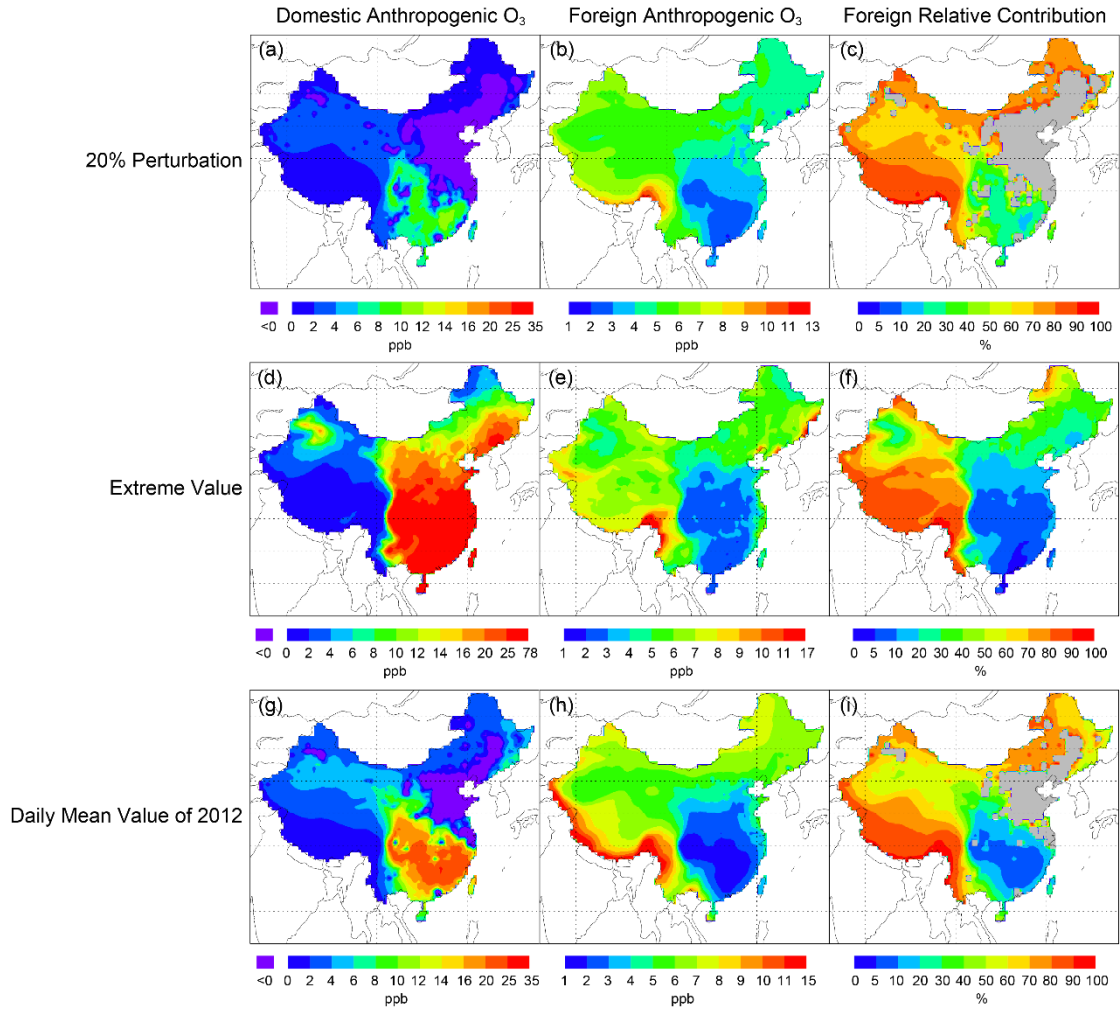
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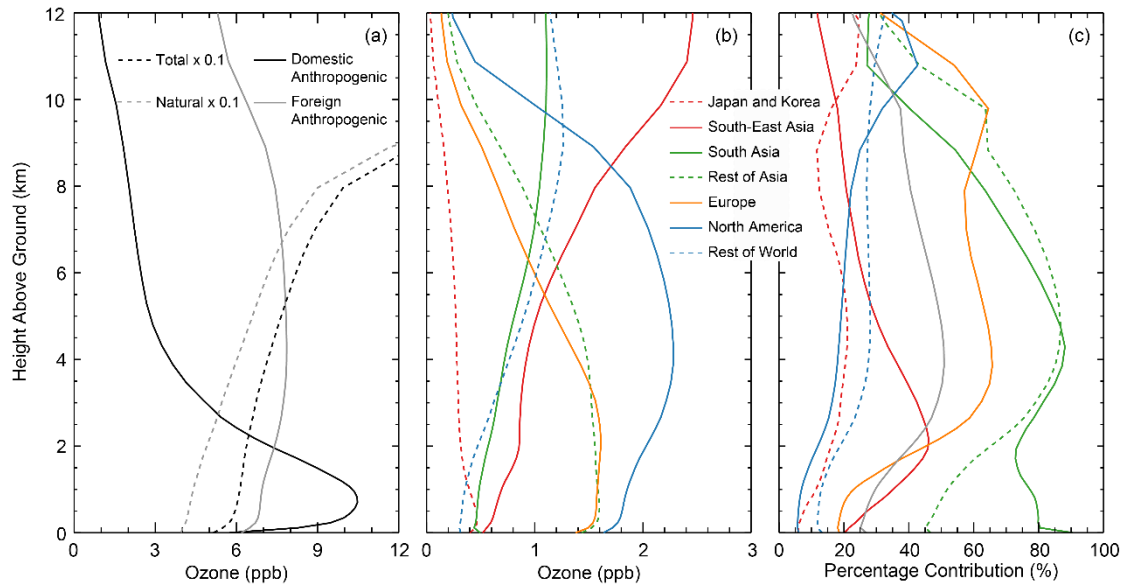
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1161 Figure 12. (a–c) similar to Fig. 9a–c but for springtime daily mean ozone calculated
 1162 by 20% perturbation method. (d–f) similar to Fig. 9a–c but for springtime extreme
 1163 ozone value (defined as the average of the top 5% hourly ozone concentrations). (g–i)
 1164 similar to Fig. 9a–c but for springtime daily mean ozone in 2012. The linear
 1165 weighting adjustment is applied to derive all results. Note that the color scales are
 1166 different in each panel.

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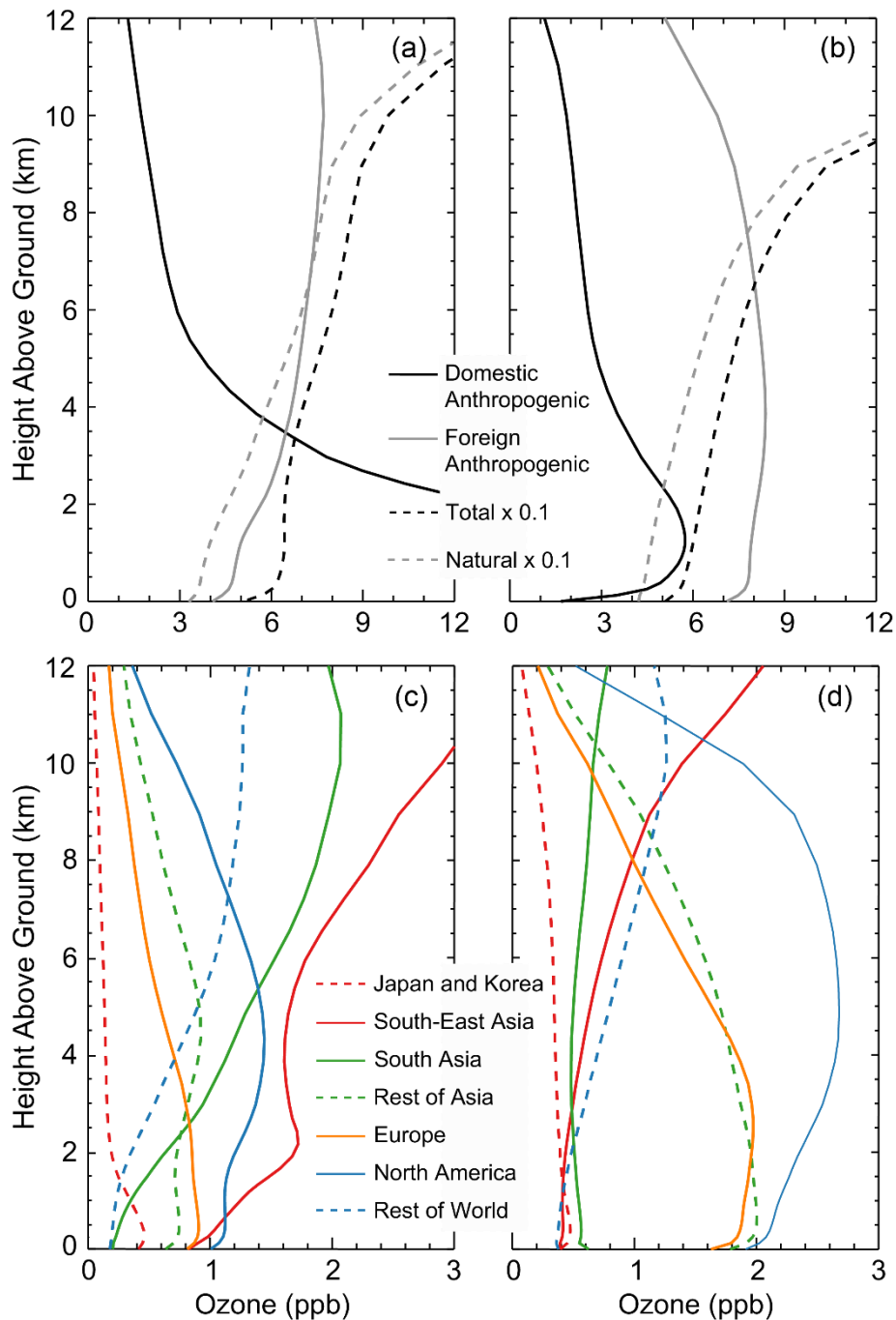
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1171 Figure 13. (a) Vertical distribution of China average daily mean ozone contributed by
 1172 domestic anthropogenic emissions, foreign anthropogenic emissions, natural sources
 1173 (scaled by 0.1) and total sources (scaled by 0.1). (b) Contribution by anthropogenic
 1174 emissions of each foreign source region. (c) Of the ozone over China due to
 1175 anthropogenic emissions of each foreign region, the portion produced within each
 1176 foreign source region's territory calculated based on a combination of zero-out and
 1177 tagged simulations. The linear weighting adjustment is applied to derive all results.



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 1179 Figure 14. (a) Vertical distribution of regional average daily mean ozone contributed
 1180 by domestic anthropogenic emissions, foreign anthropogenic emissions, natural
 1181 sources (scaled by 0.1) and total sources (scaled by 0.1) over regions where Chinese
 1182 anthropogenic emissions contribute more surface ozone than total foreign
 1183 anthropogenic emissions. (c) Contribution by anthropogenic emissions of each foreign
 1184 source region over regions where Chinese anthropogenic emissions contribute more
 1185 surface ozone than total foreign anthropogenic emissions. (b, d) similar to (a, c) but
 1186 for regional average daily mean ozone over regions where foreign anthropogenic
 1187 emissions dominate. The linear weighting adjustment is applied to derive all results.