

Response to the editor:

We thank the editor for his helpful comments. Our responses to the comments are provided below, with editor's comments italicized and our responses in plain and bold fonts.

The response to the reviewer comments was adequate, except for two comments from Dr. Liu for which you responded well, but did not change the text of the paper. To avoid confusion, I'll just ask that you modify the text of the paper for these two comments before it can be accepted for publication:

3). Section 2, 2nd paragraph: "Time series data were archived with 3-hr temporal resolution at the Summit grid box" — I think you meant "grid column". Moreover, it is not clear how the model output was sampled in the vertical. The elevation of Summit is 3212m asl. Did you sample the model bottom layer, or the model vertical layer that is about 3212m above the sea level? The latter may very well be different than the former because the topography is not well resolved at coarse resolution. Would the results about model overestimates or underestimates found in this paper be different if the alternative way of model sampling is used (e.g., lines 206-207)?

Response: Thanks for pointing this out. We have modified the text according to our responses to Dr. Liu's comments as "Time series data were archived with 3-hr temporal resolution at the Summit grid box for each model vertical level, including the model bottom layer. For comparison with surface observations at Summit, Greenland, we sampled the data for the model bottom layer. We acknowledge that the topography is not well resolved at coarse model resolution, and we believe that the diagnostics for the model bottom layer would work better than the model vertical layer that is about 3212 m above the sea level for comparison to the surface measurements." (lines 161-166)

Line 77: "...used to be the global default anthropogenic C2H6 emission inventory" - Do you mean "default" in GEOS-Chem or any other models?

Response: We have revised the text as “In GEOS-Chem, RETRO used to serve as the default global anthropogenic emission inventory for C₂H₆, however, the annual budget of which has been shown too low compared with observations.” (lines 189-191)

Response to reviewer #1:

We thank Reviewer #1 for his/her valuable and thoughtful comments. Our responses to the comments are provided below, with the reviewer's comments italicized and our responses in plain and bold fonts.

This paper describes an evaluation of tropospheric ozone and its precursor species simulated by the GEOS-Chem global chemical transport model (CTM) at the Summit observatory station in Greenland. Based on evaluation of the standard GEOS-Chem model, and deficiencies identified through comparison with observations, a number of model changes are implemented (mostly to emissions) which are shown to improve the model performance. The paper serves as a useful documentation of Greenland surface ozone, NO_y and VOC sensitivity to a number of key processes, and highlights processes that warrant further investigation to improve understanding of the surface Arctic ozone budget. These issues are important in light of recent studies demonstrating poor model performance for Arctic tropospheric ozone, as cited by the authors. The paper is generally well written, logically structured and is suitable for the journal. I would recommend publication of this manuscript in ACP, once the following minor issues have been addressed.

1) Paragraph beginning Line 69. The discussion of ethane appears a bit out of the blue. The authors should explain more clearly in the manuscript the importance and relevance of ethane to the previous discussion. i.e. give some context for how ethane is relevant to the study - which is motivated by understanding Arctic tropospheric ozone. i.e. as has been done for NO_x , PAN.

Response: We thank the reviewer for pointing this out. We have reorganized the flow of the text related to ethane in the introduction section - a) we have deleted some discussions on ethane that are not closely related to our study here; b) We have added discussions on the importance of volatile organic compounds (e.g., ethane and propane) for the productions of ozone (lines 47-52) –

“Tropospheric ozone (O_3) and its precursors, including nitrogen oxides ($\text{NO}_x = \text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs, such as ethane, propane, etc.) are important atmospheric species affecting both air quality and climate (e.g., Jacob et al., 1992; Fiore et al., 2002; Unger et al., 2006; Hollaway et al., 2012). Tropospheric O_3 is

mainly produced by photochemical oxidation of CO and VOCs in the presence of NO_x, with additional contribution by transport from the stratosphere.”

2) Lines 109-112: *It is unclear here what is meant by fully coupled aerosol? Does this include size-resolved modal aerosol for example? Heterogeneous chemistry, semivolatile nitrate..?*

Response: We have clarified this part to “Simulations of O₃ and related species (NO_x, PAN, NMHCs) are conducted using the GEOS-Chem model (Bey et al., 2001) with coupled O₃-NO_x-VOC-Aerosol chemistry mechanism (i.e. these species interact with each other in the model).” (lines 148-150)

3) Lines 112-115: *Discussion of previous GEOS-Chem evaluation. It would be helpful here to provide a few sentences for a brief but more critical review of what has been shown in terms of model performance with previous studies specifically using GEOS-Chem in the Arctic. e.g. sensitivity analysis by Christian et al., (2107), the recent POLMIP evaluation (see Monks et al., 2015). These have shown some important limitations and strengths that it would be useful to point out for context.*

Response: This is an excellent point. We have added the descriptions of previous GEOS-Chem evaluations in the text. In the Introduction part, we have included the discussions of Monks et al. (2015) and Christian et al. (2017) as “More recently, Monks et al. (2015) further demonstrated that model simulated O₃ mixing ratios in the Arctic at the surface and in the upper troposphere were generally lower than the observations. In addition, a recent study by Christian et al. (2017) compared O₃ observations from the ARCTAS campaign to GEOS-Chem model simulations and found consistent low biases with the model simulated O₃ at all altitudes except the surface.” (lines 87-91)

In Section 2, we have modified text in lines 112-115 in ACPD as “The GEOS-Chem model has been extensively evaluated and applied in a wide range of applications (Martin et al., 2002; Park et al., 2004; Wu et al., 2007; Hudman et al., 2009; Johnson et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2014; Hickman et al., 2017), including the studies

in the Arctic (e.g., Alvarado et al., 2010; Monks et al., 2015; Christian et al., 2017).” (lines 152-156)

4) Discussion of model NO_x bias (first paragraph of page 5). Perhaps here quote the obs/model slope or model bias. You give figures for the slopes / correlations in the panels of Fig 3 but don't mention the numbers in the text.

Response: We agree with the reviewer. Now we have included model NO_x bias in the text as “As shown in Figure 1a, the GEOS-Chem model simulated NO_x agree well with the observations for July-October. However, compared to observations, the model results significantly overestimate NO_x mixing ratios for November-January by about 150%, while underestimating the data in spring and early summer by approximately 60%.” (lines 208-211)

For Fig. 3, we have included the NO_x model-to-observations slopes and correlation coefficients in the text as “As shown in Figure 3a, GEOS-Chem overestimates surface NO₂ mixing ratios at these sites by over 66%, compared with observations (slope=1.07; correlation coefficient=0.88).” (lines 231-232) and “Furthermore, the discrepancy for the differences of surface NO₂ mixing ratios over Europe between EURO_EDGAR and observations is further reduced (by 50%), relative to the control runs, with a model-to-observation slope of 0.92 and a correlation coefficient of 0.83 (Fig. 3b).” (lines 248-249)

5) Lines 206-208: Is the magnitude of the snowpack NO_x reservoir depletion of right order to explain this? Is the source linearly dependent on the reservoir? Would it be hard to test this in the model to see if it improves the model bias? i.e. can you scale the monthly emissions according to this finding? Perhaps not necessary, but a brief discussion of the order of magnitude of depletion and how that relates to the model bias would be helpful.

Response: Thanks for the excellent questions. Snowpack nitrate photolysis plays an important role in affecting the surface NO_x mixing ratios during late spring and summer over Summit, Greenland. Dibb et al. (2007) demonstrated that nitrate concentrations in the snowpack peaked in June and declined toward fall by ~ 1/3. Moreover, Van Dam et al. (2015)

offered the direct evidence that NO_x mixing ratios within the snowpack showed declining trend from June to October, which may partially explain why we would see the declining trend of surface NO_x mixing ratios over Summit from May-October. We have therefore added this discussions in the text “Dibb et al. (2007) reported that nitrate concentrations in the Summit snowpack peaked in June and declined toward fall by ~ 1/3. Van Dam et al. (2015) further showed decreasing trend for NO_x mixing ratios within the snowpack at Summit from June to October. This may partially explain why we would see the declining trend of surface NO_x mixing ratios over Summit from June toward fall. The NO_x emissions from snowpack are affected by a number of factors including nitrate concentrations and solar radiation available and the responses can be very non-linear. Further investigations are needed to account for the seasonal variations of snowpack NO_x emissions from nitrate photolysis in the model, i.e., constrained by seasonal snowpack NO_x emission flux measurements in the future.” (lines 281-289)

6) Does this model include the PAN budget updates from the Fischer et al. study that is mentioned? This should be stated clearly. Arnold et al., (2105) showed that GEOS-Chem produces less PAN relative to CO than other models in Arctic air masses influenced by fires. It would be useful to refer back to this here to give context to the model performance relative to that found for other models.

Response: Points are well taken. We have added clarification and discussion in the text - “For instance, a study by Fischer et al. (2014) showed improved agreement between modeled and measured PAN in the high latitudes when assigning a portion of the fire emissions in the model above the boundary layer and also directly partitioning 40% of NO_x emissions from fires into PAN. We carried out a sensitivity test with similar treatments, but no significant improvements in the model simulated surface PAN were observed at the Summit site. Therefore, we did not include the PAN updates from Fischer et al. (2014) in other model simulations in this study.” (lines 321-327)

We have also added discussion on the reference of Arnold et al. (2015) - “This is consistent with the study by Arnold et al. (2015), which reported that model simulated PAN mixing ratios in GEOS-Chem were lower than ARCTAS observations over high-latitude

atmosphere in the Arctic. Meanwhile, this study also revealed that GEOS-Chem produced less PAN relative to CO in Arctic air parcels that were influenced by fires, compared with other models.” (lines 305-314)

Typographical / editorial corrections:

Line 58: “: : :while PAN mixing ratios were lower in fresh boreal fire plumes.” This sentence is unclear. Lower than observed? Lower than in other air mass types simulated in the model?

Response: Thanks for pointing this out. Model simulated PAN mixing ratios were lower than the observations. Therefore, we have modified the whole sentence as “They found that model simulated NO_x mixing ratios were higher than observations, while PAN mixing ratios were lower than the observations in fresh boreal fire plumes.” (lines 64-66)

Line 82: “.. that the snowpack emits..”

Response: Done.

Paragraph beginning Line 141 contains mixed (past / present) tenses. Please adjust the text to make it consistent.

Response: Points are well taken. We have corrected the paragraph as “We first run the standard GEOS-Chem model with a-priori emissions and compare the simulation results against observations for various species (including NO_x, PAN, C₂H₆, C₃H₈, CO, and O₃, as shown in Fig. 1). Then we focus on the model-observation discrepancies, and where applicable, made revisions to the model simulations and further evaluate the improvement in model performance, as discussed in details below.” (lines 198-202)

Line 156: “ not observed in the data.” Better to simply say “.. not observed”.

Response: Agree. We have deleted “in the data” in the revised text.

Line 161: Omit word “manually” (which should be spelled “manually” in any case).

Response: Typo has been corrected.

Response to Dr. Hongyu Liu's comments:

We thank Dr. Hongyu Liu for his valuable and thoughtful comments. Our responses to the comments are provided below, with Dr. Hongyu Liu's comments italicized and our responses in plain and bold fonts.

This paper presents a GEOS-Chem model analysis of surface ozone and its precursors (NO_x, PAN, C₂H₆, C₃H₈, CO) observed at Summit, Greenland during the period of July 2008 - June 2010, with a focus on their concentrations and seasonal variations. Modeling tropospheric ozone in the Arctic has been challenging, and it is very interesting to use a state-of-the-art chemical transport model to test and improve our understanding of its sources and variability. The authors identified the discrepancies between the GEOS-Chem simulations and observations, which were then examined using various model perturbation experiments. The results are original, and the paper is concise and very well written. I recommend its publication on ACP with some minor modifications, as itemized below.

1). Title - Using "tropospheric ozone" in the title is a bit misleading. Although this study also compared the model vertical profiles of ozone and specific humidity with ozonesonde observations, the main scope of this paper is "surface ozone".

Response: We agree with the reviewer's comment. We therefore change the title as "Surface ozone and its precursors at Summit, Greenland: comparison between observations and model simulations".

2). Section 2: It is not clear which version of the GEOS-5 meteorological data archive was used. Is it GEOS-5.1.0 or GEOS-5.2.0? See e.g., http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem/index.php/GEOS-5_met_field_reprocessing and "http://wiki.seas.harvard.edu/geos-chem/index.php/List_of_GEOS-5_met_fields".

Response: Thanks for pointing this out. It is GEOS-5.2.0. We have added this in Section 2 as "The GEOS-Chem model has fully coupled O₃-NO_x-VOC-Aerosol chemistry mechanism and is driven by assimilated meteorological data from the Goddard Earth Observing System

version 5.2.0 (GEOS-5.2.0) of the NASA Global Modeling Assimilation Office.” (lines 150-152)

3). Section 2, 2nd paragraph: "Time series data were archived with 3-hr temporal resolution at the Summit grid box" — I think you meant "grid column". Moreover, it is not clear how the model output was sampled in the vertical. The elevation of Summit is 3212m asl. Did you sample the model bottom layer, or the model vertical layer that is about 3212m above the sea level? The latter may very well be different than the former because the topography is not well resolved at coarse resolution. Would the results about model overestimates or underestimates found in this paper be different if the alternative way of model sampling is used (e.g., lines 206-207)?

Response: Good points. We archived the time series data with 3-hr temporal resolution at Summit grid box for each model vertical level, including the model bottom layer. For comparison with surface observations at Summit, Greenland, we sampled the data for the model bottom layer. Indeed, the topography is not very well resolved at coarse model resolution, and we believe diagnostics for the model bottom layer would work better than those for the 3212 m level for comparison to the surface measurements.

Minor editorial comments:

Line 43: change the "and" before "volatile organic compounds" to comma.

Response: Changed.

Line 56: the ARCTAS mission

Response: Corrected.

Line 66: What do you mean "O3 mixing ratios below the boundary layer"? Within the boundary layer?

Response: Yes, it is within the boundary layer. We have therefore corrected the sentence as “Wespes et al. (2012) also revealed that model simulated O₃ mixing ratios within the

boundary layer were significantly underestimated during spring-summer, compared with ARCTAS measurements.” (lines 85-87)

Line 77: "...used to be the global default anthropogenic C₂H₆ emission inventory" - Do you mean "default" in GEOS-Chem or any other models?

Response: Yes, it is the GEOS-Chem default anthropogenic C₂H₆ emission inventory.

Line 228: add "over Greenland" after "PAN".

Response: Added.

Line2 268-270: "relative to NEI11_MIX" – isn't this relative to NEI11? Remove it?

Response: Well, it is relative to NEI11_MIX. In terms of emissions, you are right because we don't change the MIX emissions in this sensitivity simulation. Therefore, in order to avoid confusion, we give a simulation name for this sensitivity run and change this sentence as “We therefore run a sensitivity simulation by increasing the NEI11 C₂H₆ emissions by 40% and keeping other model configuration identical to NEI11_MIX (hereafter referred to as NEI11_40_MIX). We find this update leads to an increase in the model simulated annual mean surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios over Summit by only 6% during the period of 07/2008-06/2010 (figure not shown), still not able to explain the high model bias.” (lines 366-370)

Line2 279-281: The annual mean agrees quite well with observations, but the simulation is worse in summer.

Response: Points are well taken. We have changed this sentence to “We find that the simulated annual mean surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios at Summit from NEI11_MIX20 agree quite well with observations (within 1%). Similarly, better agreement between model and observations are found for monthly average values for October - January. However, the new simulation is not able to reproduce the seasonal cycle of C₂H₆ - the model significantly underestimates in February – April but overestimates in June – September (Fig. 5).” (lines 384-389)

Lines 283-288: Good point, but this long sentence needs a break.

Response: Thanks for pointing this out. We have divided the long sentence to “Note that this standard version of GEOS-Chem does not account for the sink of C₂H₆ from the reaction with chlorine, which could reduce the global annual mean surface C₂H₆ mixing ratio by 0-30%, and the global burden of C₂H₆ by about 20% (Sherwen et al., 2016). However, this may introduce additional uncertainty for our measurement-model comparison, together with the uncertainty in the seasonality of C₂H₆ chemistry.” (lines 392-396)

Line 325: "Unfortunately, ..." – "However, ..."

Response: Corrected.

Lines 339-340: "..., which implies that GEOS-Chem possibly underestimates STE for O₃ over Summit" – This is interesting and appears consistent with Choi et al., ACP 2017 (<https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/17/8429/2017/>), see their Fig. 6), where the GMI CTM driven by MERRA (GEOS-5.2.0) underestimates ozonesonde-observed ozone in the Northern Hemisphere high-latitude upper troposphere.

Response: Thank you for providing us a reference source, which also attributed the model low bias to STE. We have included a discussion about this study in the text as “This is consistent with the study by Choi et al. (2017), which found low bias with model simulated O₃ mixing ratios over high-latitude upper troposphere of the Northern Hemisphere, compared with ozonesonde data, and attributed the low bias to weak STE in the model.” (lines 471-473)

Lines 358-359: Summit, Greenland; surface ozone

Response: Good suggestion. We have changed the whole sentence to “We combine model simulations with two-year (July 2008 - June 2010) ground based measurements at Summit, Greenland, to investigate the abundance and seasonal variations of surface O₃ and related species in the Arctic.” (lines 482-484)

Figures 2, 3, 5, S1: In the caption, state briefly what the perturbation simulations are

and refer the reader to the text for details.

**Response: We have added additional descriptions in the captions for Figures 2, 3, 5, and S1.
Please refer to our revised manuscripts for details.**

1 Surface ozone and its precursors at Summit, Greenland: comparison between observations
2 and model simulations

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18 **Abstract.** Recent studies have shown some significant challenges for atmospheric models to
19 simulate tropospheric ozone (O₃) and some of its precursors in the Arctic. In this study, ground
20 based data are combined with a global 3-D chemical transport model (GEOS-Chem) to examine
21 the abundance and seasonal variations of O₃ and its precursors at Summit, Greenland (72.34° N,
22 38.29° W, 3212 m.a.s.l). Model simulations for atmospheric nitrogen oxides (NO_x), peroxyacetyl
23 nitrate (PAN), ethane (C₂H₆), propane (C₃H₈), carbon monoxide (CO), and O₃ for the period of
24 07/2008-06/2010 are compared with observations. The model performs well in simulating certain
25 species (such as CO and C₃H₈), but some significant discrepancies are identified for other
26 species and further investigated. The model generally underestimates NO_x and PAN (by around
27 50% and 30%, respectively) for March-June. Likely contributing factors to the low bias include
28 missing NO_x and PAN emissions from snowpack chemistry in the model. At the same time, the
29 model overestimates NO_x mixing ratios by more than a factor of 2 in wintertime, with episodic
30 NO_x mixing ratios up to 15 times higher than the typical NO_x levels at Summit. Further
31 investigation shows that these simulated episodic NO_x spikes are always associated with

37 transport events from Europe, but the exact cause remains unclear. The model systematically
38 overestimates C₂H₆ mixing ratios by approximately 20% relative to observations. This
39 discrepancy can be resolved by decreasing anthropogenic C₂H₆ emissions over Asia and the US
40 by ~ 20%, from 5.4 to 4.4 Tg/yr. GEOS-Chem is able to reproduce the seasonal variability of O₃
41 and its spring maximum. However, compared with observations, it underestimates surface O₃ by
42 approximately 13% (6.5 ppbv) from April to July. This low bias appears to be driven by several
43 factors including missing snowpack emissions for NO_x and nitrous acid in the model, the weak
44 simulated stratosphere-to-troposphere exchange flux of O₃ over the Summit, as well as the coarse
45 model resolution.

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46 1. Introduction

47 Tropospheric ozone (O₃) and its precursors, including nitrogen oxides (NO_x = NO + NO₂),
48 carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs, such as ethane, propane, etc.),
49 are important atmospheric species affecting both air quality and climate (e.g., Jacob et al., 1992;
50 Fiore et al., 2002; Unger et al., 2006; Hollaway et al., 2012). Tropospheric O₃ is mainly
51 produced by photochemical oxidation of CO and VOCs in the presence of NO_x, with additional
52 contribution by transport from the stratosphere. Its major sinks include chemical reactions and
53 dry deposition. As a reservoir species for NO_x, peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN) also plays an
54 important role in atmospheric chemistry, PAN and O₃, as well as some of their precursors, have
55 relatively long lifetimes in the atmosphere, enabling them to be transported long distance to
56 remote regions such as the Arctic.

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57 Recent studies have shown some significant challenges for atmospheric chemical transport
58 models to simulate O₃ and its precursors in the Arctic (e.g., Shindell et al., 2008; Alvarado et al.,
59 2010; Walker et al., 2012; Wespes et al., 2012; Fischer et al., 2014; Monks et al., 2015), but the
60 causes remain unclear. In the multi-model assessment by Shindell et al. (2008), more than a
61 dozen models all showed systematic and persistent underestimation of O₃ at the GEOSummit
62 station, Greenland (hereafter referred to as Summit). Alvarado et al. (2010) used NO_x and PAN
63 measurements from ARCTAS (Arctic Research of the Composition of the Troposphere from
64 Aircraft and Satellites) in the summer to compare with model simulations. They found that
65 model simulated NO_x mixing ratios were higher than observations, while PAN mixing ratios
66 were lower than the observations in fresh boreal fire plumes. In terms of global PAN

80 simulations, Fischer et al. (2014) directly partitioned 40% of NO_x emissions from wildfires to
81 PAN formation, which improved the agreement between model and observations. However, the
82 model still underestimated PAN surface mixing ratios during springtime in the Arctic. Walker et
83 al. (2012) reported that model simulated O₃ mixing ratios were biased low when compared with
84 balloon data during summertime from two high-latitude sites at Eureka (80°N, 86°W) and Ny-
85 Ålesund (79°, 12°E). Wespes et al. (2012) also revealed that model simulated O₃ mixing ratios
86 within the boundary layer were significantly underestimated during spring-summer, compared
87 with ARCTAS measurements. More recently, Monks et al. (2015) further demonstrated that
88 model simulated O₃ mixing ratios in the Arctic at the surface and in the upper troposphere were
89 generally lower than the observations. In addition, a recent study by Christian et al. (2017)
90 compared O₃ observations from the ARCTAS campaign to GEOS-Chem model simulations and
91 found consistent low biases with the model simulated O₃ at all altitudes except the surface.

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92 Field measurements at Summit show that the snowpack emits gas-phase NO_x, PAN, nitrous acid
93 (HONO), as well as hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) during spring-summer, when polar sun rises
94 (Ford et al., 2002; Honrath et al., 2002). Although several 1-D models (Thomas et al., 2011,
95 2012; Frey et al., 2013; Murray et al., 2015) have validated the importance of snowpack
96 emissions for surface NO_x as well as O₃ formation, current global chemical transport models
97 (CTMs) usually do not include this emission source (Zatko et al., 2016).

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98 In this study, we examine the abundance and seasonal variations of O₃ and its precursors at
99 Summit with a global chemical transport model, GEOS-Chem CTM, in conjunction with two
100 years in-situ measurement data for 2008-2010. We first evaluate the model performance in
101 simulating surface O₃ and its precursors, and then implement a series of model updates to resolve
102 the identified model biases. This paper is organized as follows: section 2 describes model
103 methods and observations, followed by detailed comparisons of model simulations against
104 observations for O₃ and O₃ precursors in section 3; conclusions are summarized in section 4.

105 2. Observational data and model simulations

106 In situ measurements of NO_x, PAN, and non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHCs) were performed
107 at Summit from July 2008 to June 2010 (Helmig et al., 2014b; Kramer et al., 2015). An
108 automated chemiluminescence instrument was used to measure NO_x (Ridley and Grahek, 1990);

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137 a commercial PAN gas chromatography analyzer (PAN-GC, Metcon, In., Boulder, CO) was
138 employed for the measurement of PAN. Measurements of NMHC relied on an automated Gas
139 Chromatography-Flame Ionization Detection (FID) system. Readers are referred to Kramer et al.
140 (2015) and Helmig et al. (2014b) for the details of the measurement techniques and equipment
141 setup. Surface measurements of O₃ using ultraviolet light absorption at 254 nm
142 (Petropavlovskikh and Oltmans, 2012), and CO by GC (Novellie and Masarie, 2015) are from
143 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Hourly averaged O₃ and flask
144 sampled CO between July 2008 and June 2010 were downloaded from the NOAA Earth System
145 Research Laboratory (ESRL) Global Monitoring Division (GMD) website
146 (<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/dv/data/>). Vertical ozonesonde data profiles were also
147 downloaded from NOAA ESRL GMD (McClure-Begley et al., 2014).

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148 Simulations of O₃ and related species (NO_x, PAN, NMHCs) are conducted using the GEOS-
149 Chem model (Bey et al., 2001) with coupled O₃-NO_x-VOC-Aerosol chemistry mechanism (i.e.
150 these species interact with each other in the model). The GEOS-Chem CTM_x is driven by
151 assimilated meteorological data from the Goddard Earth Observing System version 5.2.0
152 (GEOS-5.2.0) of the NASA Global Modeling Assimilation Office. The GEOS-Chem model has
153 been extensively evaluated and applied in a wide range of applications (Martin et al., 2002; Park
154 et al., 2004; Wu et al., 2007; Hudman et al., 2009; Johnson et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2013;
155 Kumar et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2014; Hickman et al., 2017), including the studies in the Arctic
156 (e.g., Alvarado et al., 2010; Monks et al., 2015; Christian et al., 2017). GEOS-Chem v10-1 with
157 grid resolution of 4° latitude by 5° longitude, and 47 vertical layers was used for the model
158 control simulation. Following McLinden et al. (2000), the Linoz stratospheric O₃ chemistry
159 scheme was used. The simulation was run from June 2007 to June 2010 and the results from the
160 last two years were used in the final analysis. Time series data were archived with 3-hr temporal
161 resolution at the Summit grid box for each model vertical level, including the model bottom
162 layer. For comparison with surface observations at Summit, Greenland, we sampled the data for
163 the model bottom layer. We acknowledge that the topography is not well resolved at coarse
164 model resolution, and we believe that the diagnostics for the model bottom layer would work
165 better than the model vertical layer that is about 3212 m above the sea level for comparison to
166 the surface measurements.

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174 Global anthropogenic emissions of NO_x, SO₂, NH₃, and CO in the model are based on the
175 Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) v4.2 inventory, which is
176 overwritten by regional emission inventories where applicable, such as the BRAVO inventory
177 for Mexico (Kuhns et al., 2005), the CAC over Canada, the EMEP emissions over Europe, the
178 Model Inter-comparison Study for Asia Phase III (MIX) emissions over Asia (Li et al., 2017),
179 and the US EPA NEI 2011 (NEI11) emission inventory (Simon et al., 2010). The soil NO_x
180 emission scheme follows Hudman et al. (2012). Lightning NO_x emissions are calculated per
181 flash rate based on GEOS-5 computed cloud-top heights (Price and Rind, 1992), which are
182 determined by deep convection and constrained by satellite observations for monthly average
183 flash rates from the Lightning Imaging Sensor and Optical Transient Detector (OTD/LIS)
184 (Sauvage et al., 2007; Murray et al., 2012). Biomass burning emissions are from the Global Fire
185 Emission Database version 4 (GFED4) inventory with monthly resolution (Giglio et al., 2013).
186 The RETRO (Reanalysis of the TROpospheric chemical composition) global anthropogenic
187 NMHC emission inventory (van het Bolscher et al., 2008) was used except for ethane (C₂H₆) and
188 propane (C₃H₈), which follows Xiao et al. (2008, hereafter referred to as X08) for the year 2001.
189 In GEOS-Chem, RETRO used to serve as the default global anthropogenic emission inventory
190 for C₂H₆, however, the annual budget of which has been shown too low compared with
191 observations. Global biofuel emission inventory follows Yevich and Logan (2003), which
192 includes emissions for C₂H₆ and C₃H₈. For biogenic VOC emissions, the Model of Emissions of
193 Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) scheme (Guenther et al., 2006) was used. Dry
194 deposition of species in GEOS-Chem uses a standard resistance-in-series scheme (Wesely,
195 1989), as implemented in Wang et al. (1998). Wet scavenging follows Liu et al. (2001),
196 including scavenging in convective updraft, rainout (in-cloud) and washout (below-cloud) from
197 convective anvils and large-scale precipitation.

198 We first run the standard GEOS-Chem model with a-priori emissions and compare the
199 simulation results against observations for various species (including NO_x, PAN, C₂H₆, C₃H₈,
200 CO, and O₃, as shown in Fig. 1). Then we focus on the model-observation discrepancies, and
201 where applicable, make revisions to the model simulations and further evaluate the improvement
202 in model performance, as discussed in details below.

203 3. Results and Discussions

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207 We first combine the two years of data for July 2008 – June 2010 and analyze their seasonal
 208 variations. As shown in Figure 1a, the GEOS-Chem model simulated NO_x agree well with the
 209 observations, for July-October. However, compared to observations, the model results
 210 significantly overestimate NO_x mixing ratios for November-January by about 150%, while
 211 underestimating the data in spring and early summer by approximately 60%. Another challenge
 212 for the model simulation is that it does not capture the decrease of NO_x for May - November. We
 213 find that during the 2009-2010 winter season, model simulations show several high NO_x spikes
 214 with peak NO_x mixing ratios reaching ~ 0.15 ppbv or higher, which is ~ 15 times greater than
 215 typical background levels (Fig. 2). These large peaks in NO_x were not observed in the data.
 216 Similar peaks were also seen in the model simulations during the 2008-2009 winter season;
 217 however, there are no measurement data available for this period to compare with.

218 Further analyses show that the model-simulated high NO_x spikes during wintertime are all
 219 associated with transport events from Europe. We carried out a sensitivity study to examine the
 220 impacts of European emissions on Arctic NO_x by manually reducing anthropogenic NO_x
 221 emissions from the EMEP emission inventory over Europe by 50% (EMEP50). Results show
 222 that surface peak NO_x mixing ratios over Summit during the spike events (e.g., dates around
 223 12/09/2009, 12/15/2009, 1/15/2010 and 1/22/2010) from EMEP50 almost decline proportionally
 224 by approximately 50% during 2009/12/01-2010/01/31 (Fig. 2), which confirms that the modeled
 225 NO_x spikes at Summit during wintertime are associated with transport from Europe. However,
 226 the model simulated NO_x is still significantly higher than observations. Comparisons for surface
 227 NO₂ mixing ratios between model simulations and 11 in-situ observational sites over Europe
 228 during this period were conducted with data downloaded from <http://ebas.nilu.no>. For detailed
 229 site information, NO₂ measurement technique and resolution, refer to Table 1. Measurement data
 230 over these two months for each site were averaged to compare with the corresponding grid cell in
 231 the model. As shown in Figure 3a, GEOS-Chem overestimates surface NO₂ mixing ratios at
 232 these sites by over 66%, compared with observations (slope=1.07; correlation coefficient=0.88).

233 Instead of using EMEP, we carried out another sensitivity study to force anthropogenic NO_x
 234 emissions over Europe following EDGAR v4.2 (EURO_EDGAR), with other model

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242 configurations identical to control simulations. As shown in Figure 2, the NO_x mixing ratios over
243 Summit during 12/2009-01/2010 agree much better with observations, especially for January
244 2010, where the model captures the magnitudes of observational peaks. This is because NO_x
245 emissions from EDGAR over Europe (1.97 Tg NO) are 12% lower than that from EMEP (2.24
246 Tg NO) for the months of 12/2009 and 01/2010. Furthermore, the discrepancy for the differences
247 of surface NO₂ mixing ratios over Europe between EURO_EDGAR and observations is further
248 reduced (by 50%), relative to the control runs, with a model-to-observation slope of 0.92 and a
249 correlation coefficient of 0.83 (Fig. 3b). Similarly, we also tested the sensitivity of surface NO_x
250 mixing ratios over Summit in response to the changes in the anthropogenic NO_x emissions from
251 NEI11 over US and MIX over Asia (including Siberia) during these two months, and found that
252 surface NO_x mixing ratio over Summit during these two months were quite close to the control
253 simulations (not shown), reflecting insensitivity to emission perturbations from US and Asia.
254 Therefore, we conclude that uncertainties in fossil fuel NO_x emissions of EMEP associated with
255 transport events from Europe in the model are the most likely cause for the wintertime NO_x
256 spikes over Summit.

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257 For April-July, model simulated monthly mean NO_x mixing ratios over Summit are a factor of
258 two lower than the observations (Fig. 4a). In-situ measurements at Summit by Honrath et al.
259 (1999, 2000a, 2000b, 2002) showed upward fluxes of NO_x (2.52×10^8 molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹) from
260 photolysis of nitrate in snowpack during the summertime, leading to enhancement in NO_x levels
261 in the surface layer by approximately 20 pptv, which is comparable to surface NO_x mixing ratios
262 in the Arctic from other sources. Similar results were found over the East Antarctic Plateau
263 snow/ice sheet (Frey et al., 2013; Legrand et al., 2014). The standard GEOS-Chem model does
264 not include the photolysis of nitrate from snowpack, implying a missing source for NO_x in the
265 Arctic/Antarctic boundary layer.

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266 In order to test the sensitivity of model simulated surface NO_x mixing ratios to the snowpack
267 emissions, we implement in the model a constant 24-hr NO_x flux $\sim 2.52 \times 10^8$ molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹
268 during April-July over Greenland (60-85° N, 20-60° W), following the measurements conducted
269 at Summit during summertime by Honrath et al. (2002). As a result, we find that on average, the
270 model simulated surface NO_x mixing ratios for April to July over Summit more than double that
271 from the control simulation, which improves the agreement between model and observations for

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276 April-June (Fig. 4a). However, the assumed NO_x flux from snowpack in the model leads to
277 overestimate of NO_x mixing ratios in July and the model is still not able to reproduce the
278 decreasing trends of NO_x for May-October. This decreasing trend of NO_x may be driven by the
279 decreasing NO_x production rate in snowpack resulting from a gradual depletion of the snowpack
280 NO_x reservoir (Van Dam et al., 2015), which is not reflected in the model since we implement a
281 simple constant NO_x emission flux. Dibb et al. (2007) reported that nitrate concentrations in the
282 Summit snowpack peaked in June and declined toward fall by ~ 1/3. Van Dam et al. (2015)
283 further showed decreasing trend for NO_x mixing ratios within the snowpack at Summit from
284 June to October. This may partially explain why we would see the declining trend of surface
285 NO_x mixing ratios over Summit from June toward fall. The NO_x emissions from snowpack are
286 affected by a number of factors including nitrate concentrations and solar radiation available and
287 the responses can be very non-linear. Further investigations are needed to account for the
288 seasonal variations of snowpack NO_x emissions from nitrate photolysis in the model, i.e.,
289 constrained by seasonal snowpack NO_x emission flux measurements in the future.

290 3.2 PAN

291 We then examine the model performance for PAN, which serves as a reservoir for NO_x. Figure
292 1b shows the comparison of model simulated monthly mean PAN mixing ratios with the
293 measurement data. The model captures the seasonal variation of PAN well, although
294 significantly (by ~30%) underestimating the PAN mixing ratios for April-June. By running the
295 model simulation with higher horizontal resolution at 2° latitude by 2.5° longitude (hereafter
296 referred to as GEOS-Chem 2x2.5), we find that the monthly mean PAN mixing ratios over
297 Summit during April-July increased by up to 23.3 pptv compared to the 4x5 simulation (Fig. 4b).
298 This can be explained by two reasons. First, coarse model resolution (e.g., 4x5 horizontal
299 resolution) could artificially smear the intense emission sources throughout the entire grid cell
300 (e.g., over urban regions), leading to underestimates of downwind concentrations for species,
301 e.g., O₃ and O₃ precursors (Jang et al., 1995; Yu et al., 2016). Second, ventilation of lower
302 atmosphere could be better resolved by a finer model resolution, leading to more efficient
303 vertical advection (Wang et al., 2004; Chen et al., 2009; Yu et al., 2016). However, on average,
304 monthly mean model simulated PAN mixing ratios are still underestimated by 20% during this
305 period, compared with observations. This is consistent with the study by Arnold et al. (2015).

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311 which reported that model simulated PAN mixing ratios in GEOS-Chem were lower than
312 ARCTAS observations over high-latitude atmosphere in the Arctic. Meanwhile, this study also
313 revealed that GEOS-Chem produced less PAN relative to CO in Arctic air parcels that were
314 influenced by fires, compared with other models.

315 Snowpack can emit not only NO_x, but also PAN, based on field studies at Summit during
316 summertime by Ford et al. (2002). GEOS-Chem does not contain snowpack PAN emissions and
317 chemistry. For a sensitivity study, similar to snowpack NO_x emissions as discussed in section
318 3.1, we considered a 24-hr constant flux of 2.52×10^8 molecules cm⁻² s⁻¹ of PAN over Greenland
319 from April to July, following Ford et al. (2002). As a result, model simulated PAN mixing ratios
320 agree much better with observations (Fig. 4b). Note that there are also other possible reasons that
321 lead to model bias. For instance, a study by Fischer et al. (2014) showed improved agreement
322 between modeled and measured PAN in the high latitudes can be found when assigning a portion
323 of the fire emissions in the model above the boundary layer and directly partitioning 40% of NO_x
324 emissions from fires into PAN. We carried out a sensitivity test with similar treatments, but no
325 significant improvements in the model simulated surface PAN were observed at the Summit site.
326 Therefore, we did not include the PAN updates from Fischer et al. (2014) in other model
327 simulations in this study.

328 3.3 NMHC

329 Comparisons of observed surface C₂H₆ and C₃H₈ mixing ratios with GEOS-Chem simulations at
330 Summit are shown in Figures 1c and d. The model simulations agree well with surface
331 measurements of C₃H₈, but systematically overestimate C₂H₆ (by approximately 25% annually),
332 with the largest bias (0.48 ppbv) occurring during summer. This is consistent with the study from
333 Tzompa-Sosa et al., (2017), which used the same model as our study and pointed out that using
334 X08 as global anthropogenic C₂H₆ emission inventory systematically overestimated surface C₂H₆
335 mixing ratios over the Northern Hemisphere, compared with ground-based observations.
336 Anthropogenic C₂H₆ emissions over US from NEI11 are shown to geographically match the
337 distribution of active oil and natural wells (Tzompa-Sosa et al., 2017), and the most recent MIX
338 has been updated to synergize anthropogenic C₂H₆ emissions from various countries over Asia
339 (Li et al., 2017). Therefore, instead of using global anthropogenic fossil fuel emissions of C₂H₆

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346 following X08, we first conducted sensitivity simulations by overwriting global emission
347 inventories by NEI11 over the US, and MIX over Asia (hereafter referred to as NEI11_MIX).
348 Both NEI11 and MIX contain emissions for the years from 2008 to 2010, which could
349 realistically represent the annual and seasonal variations of C₂H₆ emissions over the US and
350 Asia, thus spatially and temporally better representative of anthropogenic C₂H₆ emissions from
351 mid-latitudes transported to the Arctic regions. In general, model control simulations
352 overestimate annual mean surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios primarily in the Northern Hemisphere,
353 with large differences occurring over Asia and the US by up to 5 ppbv, compared with
354 NEI11_MIX during the period of 07/2008-06/2010 (Fig. S1). All the above changes are driven
355 by the substantial reductions of anthropogenic C₂H₆ emissions between emission inventories,
356 from 3.5 (X08) to 2.5 Tg/yr (MIX) over Asia, and from 1.9 Tg/yr (X08) to 1.4 Tg/yr (NEI11)
357 over US, reflecting the decreasing trend of anthropogenic C₂H₆ emissions during 2001-2009
358 (Helmig et al., 2014a), because the X08 emission inventory is based on the year 2001.
359 Substantial changes in surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios over the US between control simulations and
360 NEI11_MIX reflects that there exist temporal changes of C₂H₆ emissions from oil and gas
361 productions during the period of 2001-2009. A similar pattern was also found by Tsompa-Sosa et
362 al. (2017). In contrast to the control simulations, NEI11_MIX model simulations show that
363 monthly mean C₂H₆ mixing ratios over Summit are systematically underestimated by 24%,
364 compared with observations (Fig. 5). Tsompa-Sosa et al. (2017) reported that NEI11 for C₂H₆
365 emissions were likely underestimated by 40%, compared with in-situ and aircraft observations
366 over the US. We therefore run a sensitivity simulation by increasing the NEI11 C₂H₆ emissions
367 by 40% and keeping other model configuration identical to NEI11_MIX (hereafter referred to as
368 NEI11_40_MIX). We find this update leads to an increase in the model simulated annual mean
369 surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios over Summit by only 6% during the period of 07/2008-06/2010
370 (figure not shown), still not able to explain the high model bias.
371 Similar to NEI11_MIX, we further conducted sensitivity studies by only replacing the regional
372 emission inventory for C₂H₆ over the US, with other regions still following X08 (hereafter
373 referred to as NEI11_ONLY). Consequently, model simulated surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios over
374 Summit agree better with observations during winter-spring (Fig. 5), decreasing the bias from
375 +15% (control simulations) to +6%. However, model simulated C₂H₆ mixing ratios during
376 summer-fall are higher than the observations by over 30%.

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382 We then scale up the MIX emissions for C₂H₆ by 20% over Asia, with other model
383 configurations identical to NEI11_MIX (hereafter referred to as NEI11_MIX20). By doing this,
384 we increase fossil fuel C₂H₆ emissions from 2.5 to 3 Tg/yr. We find that the simulated annual
385 mean surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios at Summit from NEI11_MIX20 agree quite well with
386 observations (within 1%). Similarly, better agreement between model and observations are found
387 for monthly average values for October - January. However, the new simulation is not able to
388 reproduce the seasonal cycle of C₂H₆ - the model significantly underestimates in February – April
389 but overestimates in June – September (Fig. 5). This implies that further assessments of
390 anthropogenic C₂H₆ emissions from MIX over Asia are needed and a more accurate global
391 anthropogenic C₂H₆ emission inventory should be developed and validated to replace X08 in the
392 future. Note that this standard version of GEOS-Chem does not account for the sink of C₂H₆
393 from the reaction with chlorine, which could reduce the global annual mean surface C₂H₆ mixing
394 ratios by 0-30%, and the global burden of C₂H₆ by about 20% (Sherwen et al., 2016). This may
395 introduce additional uncertainty for our measurement-model comparison, together with the
396 highly uncertain seasonality of C₂H₆ chemistry.

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397 3.4 CO

398 Figure 1e shows the comparison of model simulated CO mixing ratios with observations over
399 Summit. Overall, the model generally captures the abundance and seasonal variation of CO.
400 Compared with observations, the annual mean CO mixing ratios is slightly overestimated by
401 about 3 ppbv in the model.

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402 3.5 O₃

403 Surface O₃ mixing ratios from model simulations and surface observations are compared in
404 Figure 1f. The GEOS-Chem model captures the seasonal variation of O₃ including the spring
405 peak. However, the model shows a systematic low bias for most time of the year, in particular for
406 April – July when the surface O₃ mixing ratios are underestimated by ~13% (~ 6.5 ppbv). Here
407 we focus our analysis for the possible causes that lead to the model low bias during April-July.

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408 As discussed earlier, snowpack emissions due to the photolysis of nitrate in the snow during late
409 spring and summer could contribute to NO_x and HONO levels in the ambient air which could
410 enhance O₃ production (Crawford et al., 2001; Zhou et al., 2001; Dibb et al., 2002; Honrath et

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426 al., 2002; Yang et al., 2002; Grannas et al., 2007; Helmig et al., 2008; Legrand et al., 2014). We
427 ran a sensitivity study to test the response of surface O₃ mixing ratios to the perturbations of NO_x
428 and HONO from snowpack emissions. In addition to snowpack NO_x emissions that are described
429 in Section 3.1, we implement in the model a constant flux of HONO (4.64×10^7 molecules cm⁻²
430 s⁻¹) from April to July (Honrath et al., 2002). As a result, monthly mean model simulated surface
431 O₃ mixing ratios increase by up to 3 ppbv during this period (Fig. 6). The largest effect occurs in
432 July due to relatively strong solar radiation. O₃ formation due to snowpack emissions in our
433 study is slightly higher than that in Zatzko et al. (2016) because HONO from snowpack emissions
434 is not considered in their study. However, for the months of April and May, surface O₃ mixing
435 ratios only increase by ~ 1 ppbv, compared with the control runs. That is, even after accounting
436 for the snowpack emissions, the model simulated O₃ mixing ratios are still significantly lower
437 than the observations.

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438 Comparison of the model simulations at different resolutions (4x5 vs. 2x2.5) shows that the finer
439 resolution simulations substantially increase monthly mean O₃ mixing ratios over Summit by up
440 to 6 ppbv for the months of June and July (Fig. 6). As discussed in section 3.2, fine model
441 resolution can better resolve the emission strengths, which could significantly affect downwind
442 chemical reactions, e.g., O₃ production efficiency (Liang and Jacobson, 2000). Moreover, terrain
443 elevations from fine model resolution are better represented (thus better representative of
444 Summit's elevation) and more efficient vertical ventilation of O₃ and O₃ precursors can be
445 achieved (Wang et al., 2004). Together with the impact of snowpack chemistry, this brings
446 model simulated surface O₃ mixing ratios over Summit in much better agreement with
447 observations for June - July. However, there is still a low bias in the model for the months of
448 April and May.

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449 Another possible cause for the low O₃ biases in model simulations is the calculated stratosphere-
450 to-troposphere exchange (STE) O₃ flux in the model. Liang et al. (2011) have pointed out that
451 STE could be a significant direct sources of O₃ in the Arctic during spring-summer. We retrieved
452 vertical profiles of O₃ mixing ratios and specific humidity from ozonesondes (0-5 km elevation
453 above the Summit surface) launched at Summit for the months of June and July in 2008 and
454 compared those data with model control runs. Ozonesondes were launched intensively during
455 these two months (a total of 19 times). As shown in Figure 7, compared with observations,

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465 model simulated O₃ mixing ratios averaged over 0-5 km above ground level are underestimated
466 by 3% and 9% in June and July 2008 (Fig. 7a). However, specific humidity in GEOS-5 is
467 overestimated by 50% and 81% (Fig. 7b) respectively. Ozonesonde data show that Summit
468 frequently encounters high O₃/low water vapors events (e.g., July 9-11, 2008), which are likely
469 of upper tropospheric/stratospheric origin (Helmig et al., 2007b), but these are not captured by
470 the model, which implies that GEOS-Chem possibly underestimates STE for O₃ over Summit.

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471 This is consistent with the study by Choi et al. (2017), which found low bias with model
472 simulated O₃ mixing ratios over high-latitude upper troposphere of the Northern Hemisphere,
473 compared with ozonesonde data, and attributed the low bias to weak STE in the model.

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474 Boundary layer height is another factor that could lead to model-data discrepancy in O₃ mixing
475 ratios (Grannas et al., 2007; Helmig et al., 2007a, c). The mean springtime afternoon (12:00-
476 14:00, local time) boundary layer height in the model at Summit for the year 2009 is 160 m,
477 which agrees fairly well with observations (156 m) at Summit conducted in spring 2005 (Cohen
478 et al., 2007). Therefore, we exclude that model uncertainties in boundary layer height
479 representation in springtime cause the low bias of O₃ mixing ratios between model and
480 observations.

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481 4. Conclusions

482 We combine model simulations with two-year (July 2008 - June 2010) ground based
483 measurements at Summit to better understand the abundance and seasonal variations of
484 tropospheric O₃ and related species in the Arctic. In general, the GEOS-Chem model is capable
485 of reproducing the seasonal cycles of NO_x, PAN, C₂H₆, C₃H₈, CO, and O₃. However, some major
486 discrepancies between model and observations, especially for NO_x, PAN, C₂H₆, and O₃ are also
487 identified.

Deleted: Lastly, we also compared O₃ dry deposition velocity (V_{dry}) in the model in springtime with observations at Summit. For spring 2009, mean O₃ V_{dry} in the model at Summit is 0.009 cm s⁻¹, which is within the range of -0.01-0.01 cm s⁻¹ observed at Summit (Helmig et al., 2009). Helmig et al. (2009) revealed that afternoon (12:00-18:00, local time) O₃ V_{dry} during springtime was close to 0.01 cm s⁻¹. For other times during the day, O₃ V_{dry} was either close to zero or negative (i.e., O₃ production over the snow outweighs its dry deposition). As a result, the net mean O₃ V_{dry} from observations during springtime is about 4-6 times lower than model simulations. Therefore, model overestimation of O₃ loss via surface uptake is another factor that contributes to the low bias of surface O₃ mixing ratios at Summit in the model during springtime.

488 There are significant differences between model simulated NO_x mixing ratios and observations
489 for the spring and winter seasons. The model underestimates NO_x mixing ratios by
490 approximately 50% during late spring to early summer, which is likely due to the missing NO_x
491 emissions from nitrate photolysis in the snowpack. At the same time, the model overestimates
492 NO_x mixing ratios by more than a factor of two in wintertime. Model simulations indicate
493 episodic but frequent transport events from Europe in wintertime leading to NO_x spikes reaching

513 15 times typical NO_x mixing ratios at Summit; these large NO_x spikes are not seen in the
514 observations. We have carried out multiple sensitivity model studies but are still unable to fully
515 reconcile this discrepancy.

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516 The model successfully captures the seasonal cycles and the spring maximum PAN mixing
517 ratios, although it underestimates PAN by over 30% during late spring and early summer. Model
518 sensitivity studies reveal that this discrepancy could be largely resolved by accounting for PAN
519 emissions from snowpack.

520 For C₃H₈ and CO, model simulations overall agree well with the surface measurements.
521 However, the model tends to systematically overestimate surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios by ~20%
522 on an annual average, compared with observations. This may be explained by that annual
523 emission budgets of C₂H₆ over US and Asia from X08 emission inventory are higher than those
524 from NEI11 and MIX by over 40%. By replacing X08 over the US with NEI11 for C₂H₆, and
525 scaling up MIX by 20%, the model-observation bias can be resolved, resulting in annual mean
526 bias less than 1%. However, care must be taken to interpret this result because we do not take
527 into account other factors that may influence the discrepancy of surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios at
528 Summit between model and observations, such as the C₂H₆ chemistry with chlorine.

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529 GEOS-Chem is able to reproduce the seasonal variation of surface O₃ at Summit but persistently
530 underestimates O₃ mixing ratios by ~13% (~ 6.5 ppbv) from April to July. This low bias is
531 likely caused by a combination of misrepresentations, including the missing snowpack emissions
532 of NO_x and HONO, inaccurate representation of Summit's elevation with a too coarse model
533 resolutions, as well as the underestimated STE.

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534 All the results presented above reveal the importance of local snowpack emissions in regulating
535 the air quality over the Arctic. Improvements in global CTM could likely be achieved by
536 coupling snowpack emissions of reactive gases and photochemistry modules in order to better
537 simulate O₃ and O₃ precursors over snow and ice in the Arctic (Zatko et al., 2016). Moreover,
538 this study also demonstrates that anthropogenic emissions from midlatitudes play an important
539 role in affecting the Arctic air quality.

Deleted: However, further investigations in anthropogenic NO_x emissions over Europe and C₂H₆ emissions over Asia and North America are needed. The uncertainties in O₃ dry deposition and STE scheme in GEOS-Chem are warranted to be better quantified in our future study.

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897 **Table 1.** Surface NO₂ measurements over Europe during 2009/12/01-2010/01/31.

Site ID	Site name	Lat. (°N)	Lon.(°E)	Altitude a.s.l (m)	Technique	Resolution
BE0001R	Offagne	49.88	5.20	430	chemiluminescence	hourly
BE0032R	Eupen	50.63	6	295	chemiluminescence	hourly
DE0001R	Westerland	54.93	8.31	12	NaJ_solution	daily
DK0008R	Anholt	56.72	11.52	40	UV_fluorescence	hourly
FI0096G	Pallas	67.97	24.12	340	chemiluminescence	hourly
GB0014R	High Muffles	54.33	-0.8	267	chemiluminescence	daily
NL0009R	Kollumerwaard	53.33	6.28	1	chemiluminescence	hourly
NO0001R	Birkenes	58.38	8.25	190	glass sinter	daily
NO0039R	Kårvatn	62.78	8.88	210	glass sinter	daily
NO0056R	Hurdal	60.37	11.08	300	glass sinter	daily
SE0005R	Bredkålen	63.85	15.3	404	abs_tube	daily

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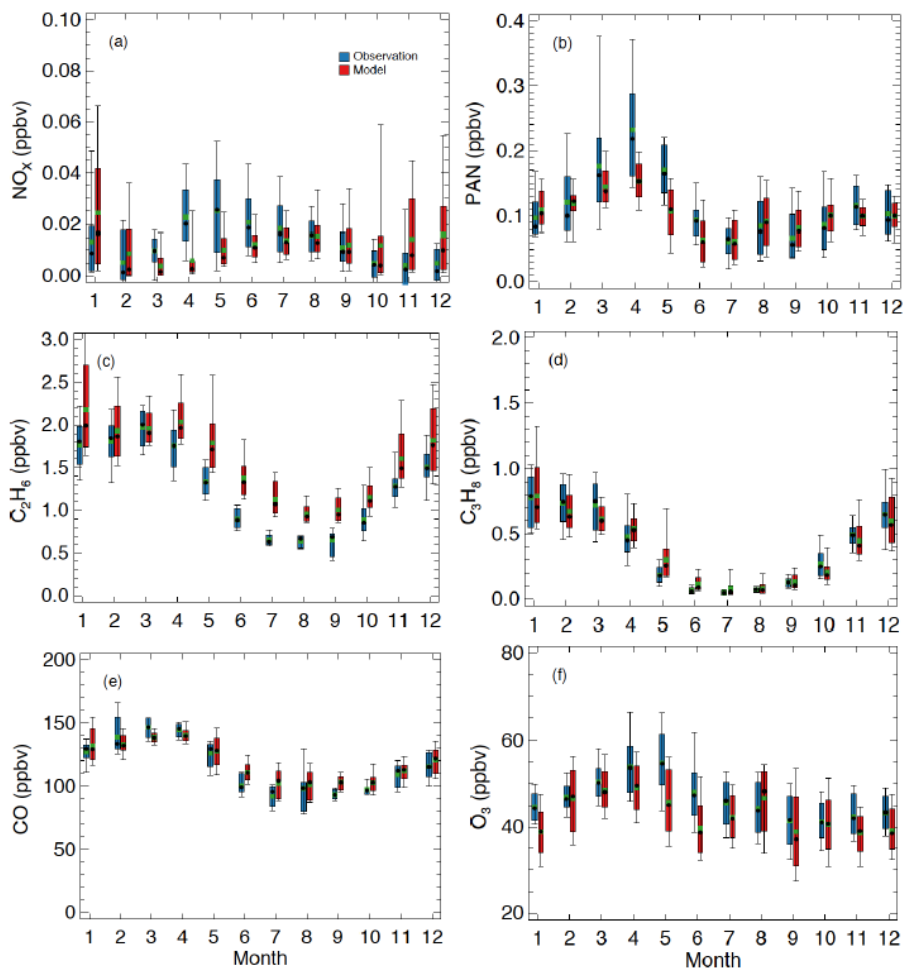
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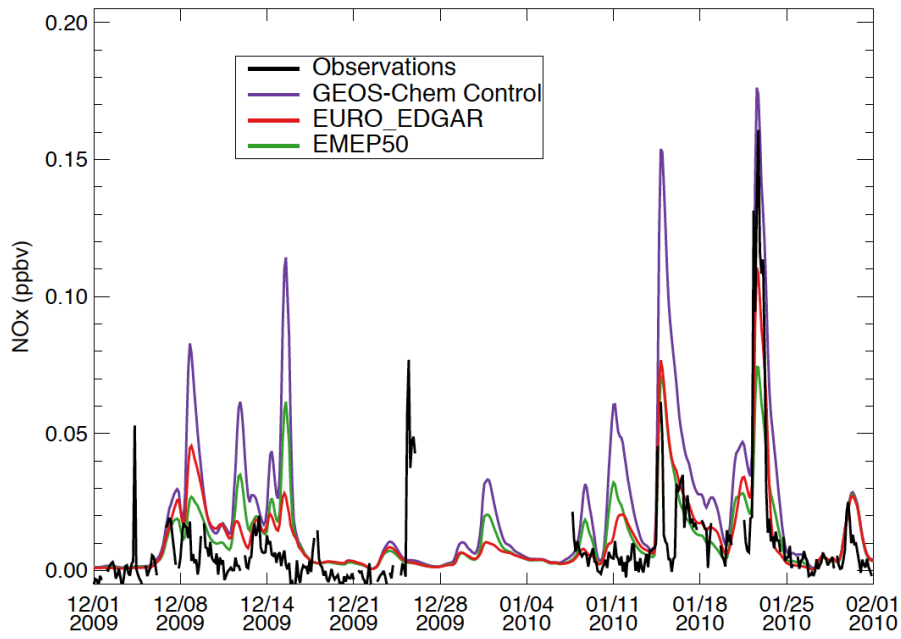
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908 **Fig. 1.** Box plot comparison for seasonal variations of (a) NO_x , (b) PAN, (c) C_2H_6 , (d) C_3H_8 , (e)
 909 CO, and (f) O_3 between GEOS-Chem model simulations (red) and in-situ measurements (blue)
 910 over Summit for the period of 2008/07-2010/06. Data shown are monthly averages during this
 911 period. The thick (thin) bars represent the 67% (95%) confidence intervals. Black and green dots
 912 represent median and mean values, respectively. The statistics are based on daily averages.



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914 **Figure 2.** Timeseries of surface NO_x mixing ratios over Summit from observations, GEOS-
 915 Chem model control simulations, EURO_EDGAR, and EMEP50 during 2009/12/01-2010/01/31.
 916 EURO EDGAR represents simulations with anthropogenic NO_x emissions over Europe
 917 following EDGAR v4.2, while EMEP50 denotes simulations with anthropogenic NO_x emissions
 918 from the EMEP emission inventory over Europe reduced by 50%, with other model
 919 configurations identical to the control simulations. Readers are referred to the text for details.

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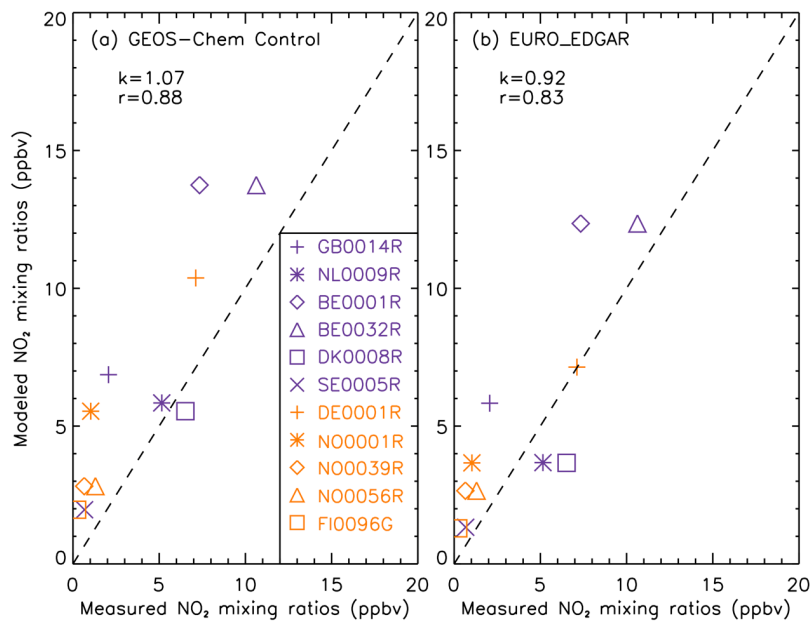
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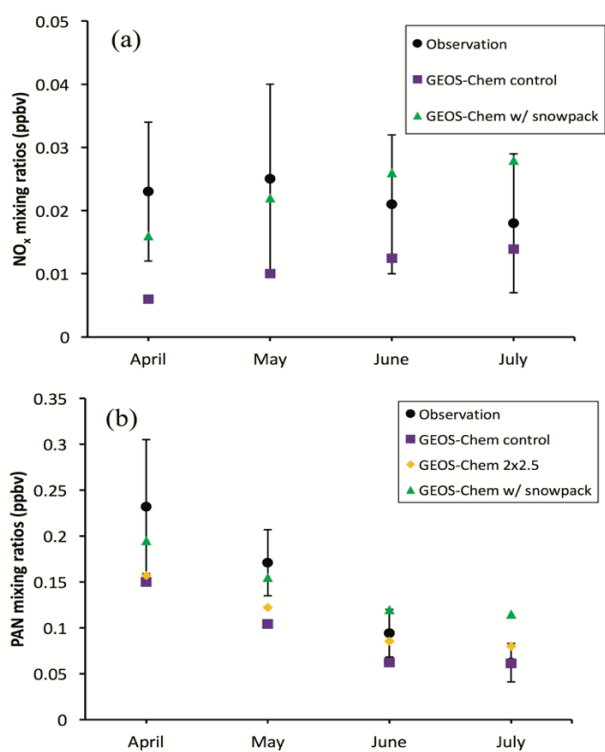
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928 **Figure 3.** Scatter plots between measured monthly mean NO₂ mixing ratios at 11 observational
929 sites over Europe and model simulations from (a) GEOS-Chem control simulations and (b)
930 EURO_EDGAR during 2009/12/01-2010/01/31; also shown is the corresponding model-to-
931 observation slopes (k) and correlation coefficients (r) for each panel. The dashed line is the 1:1
932 ratio. Explanations of site abbreviations are listed in Table 1. EURO EDGAR represents
933 simulations with anthropogenic NO_x emissions over Europe following EDGAR v4.2, with other
934 model configurations identical to the control simulations.

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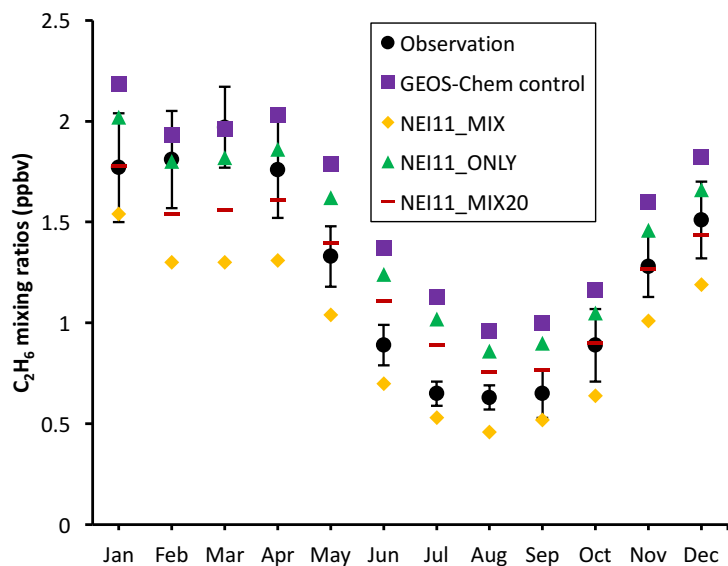
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939 **Figure 4.** Monthly mean surface (a) NO_x and (b) PAN mixing ratios from observations (black
 940 circles), simulations with (green triangles) /without (purple squares) snowpack emissions, and
 941 GEOS-Chem simulations with horizontal grid resolution 2° x 2.5° (orange diamonds) over the
 942 period of April- July during 07/2008-06/2010. Vertical bars denote standard deviations over the
 943 course of observations for each month.



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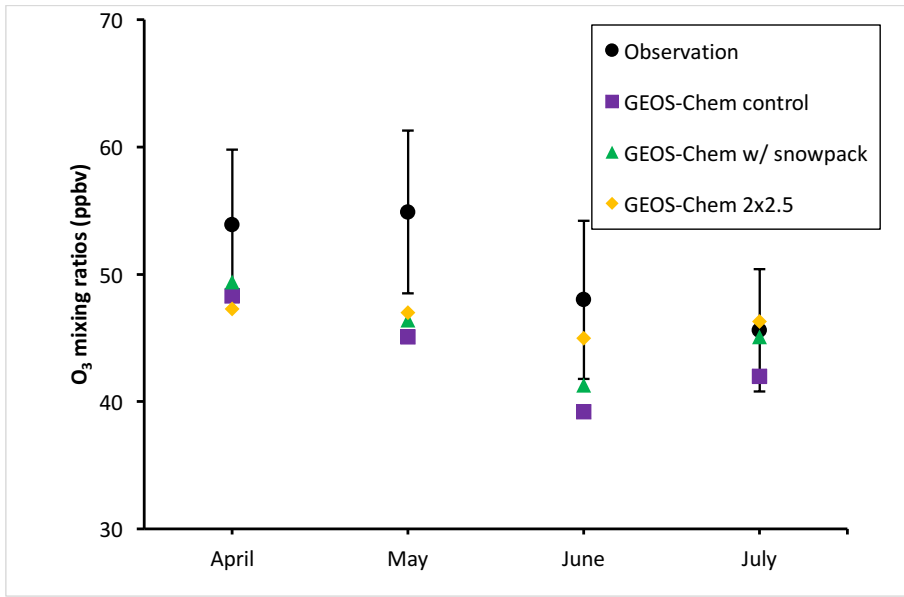
945 **Figure 5.** Monthly mean surface C₂H₆ mixing ratios at Summit from observations (black
 946 circles), GEOS-Chem model control simulations (purple squares), NEI11_MIX (orange
 947 diamond), and NEI11_ONLY (green triangles) simulations during 2008-2010; vertical bars
 948 denote the standard deviation over the course of observations for each month. NEI11_MIX
 949 represents model perturbations with global C₂H₆ emission inventories overwritten by NEI11 over
 950 US and by MIX over Asia, with other model configurations identical to the control simulations.
 951 NEI11_ONLY denotes the simulation that is the same with the control simulation except that the
 952 C₂H₆ emission inventory over US is overwritten by NEI11. NEI11_MIX20 is the simulation that
 953 is identical to NEI11_MIX except the 20% increased MIX C₂H₆ emission inventory over Asia.
 954 Readers are referred to the text for details.

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960 **Figure 6.** Monthly mean surface O₃ mixing ratios from observations (black circles), GEOS-
 961 Chem control runs (purple squares), with snowpack chemistry (green triangles), and horizontal
 962 grid resolution 2° x 2.5° (orange diamonds) for April-July. Vertical bars denote the variability
 963 over the course of observations for each month.

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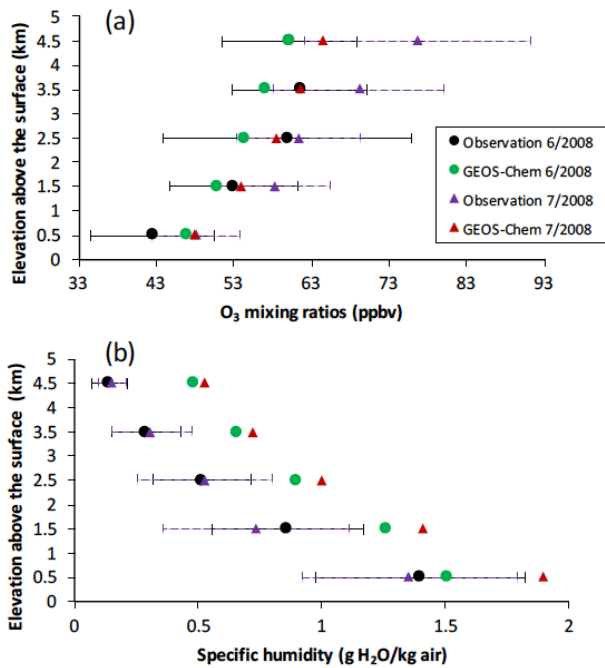
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973 **Figure 7.** Comparisons of vertical profiles of (a) O₃ and (b) specific humidity between GEOS-
 974 Chem simulations and ozonesondes in June and July 2008 respectively, averaged over 1-km
 975 altitude bins. Black and green solid circles represent observations and simulations in June 2008
 976 while purple and red triangles denote observations and simulations for July 2008 respectively.
 977 Solid and dash horizontal error bars represent observational standard deviations for June and July
 978 respectively.

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