

Interactive comment on “NO_y production, ozone loss and changes in net radiative heating due to energetic particle precipitation in 2002–2010” by Miriam Sinnhuber et al.

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Comment considering the conclusions of the paper "NO_y production, ozone loss and changes in net radiative heating due to energetic particle precipitation in 2002–2010" by Sinnhuber et al.

The paper states that "Analysis of several decades of re-analysis data show a warming of the mid-to late winter upper stratosphere related to high geomagnetic activity (Lu et al., 2008; Seppälä et al., 2013). These have been interpreted as a result of coupling between the vortex strength and wave propagation and reflection, an assumption strengthened by the apparent relation to the phase of the stratospheric quasi-biennial

C1

oscillation and the solar cycle (Lu et al., 2008; Seppälä et al., 2013). However, our results suggest that the direct radiative impact plays a role as well."

As we write (about the upper stratospheric warming signal) in Seppälä et al., 2013, the paper referenced here: "Based on earlier work by others, Baumgaertner et al. [2011] suggested that the warming signal would be a result in decrease in ozone radiative cooling as a response to ozone depletion, and the cooling signal might arise from dynamical heating due to slowing down of the meridional Brewer-Dobson circulation. Such a reduction would be associated with less upward EP flux and more waves reflecting toward the equator [see Lu et al., 2008b, and references therein]. As discussed above, this is now confirmed by our EP flux results." (Discussion, last paragraph)

"These results confirm the previous hypothesis of Lu et al. [2008b] regarding the role of dynamics in coupling geomagnetic activity levels and stratospheric changes and supports the suggestion of Baumgaertner et al. [2011] about the dynamical coupling mechanism connecting EPP-NO_x induced ozone loss, polar stratospheric temperatures, and the modulation of the Northern Annular Mode." (Conclusions, last paragraph)

This clearly shows that the role of the direct radiative impact in the upper stratosphere suggested here is in no disagreement by the works cited. Results of Lu et al. (2008) and Seppälä et al. (2013) both support the suggestion of Baumgaertner et al. (2011) (which is unfortunately not cited in the current paper in this context) that the upper stratosphere warming signal is related to the radiative changes arising from changes in ozone, exactly as proposed again here.

In summary, the results of the modelling work done here regarding the role of direct radiative impact do, in fact, strongly support the results of Lu et al. (2008), Baumgaertner et al. (2011) and Seppälä et al (2013). This agreement between the independent studies is important, and I would be grateful if the authors would correct their statement concerning this in the current paper.

2017.

C3