

Influence of Changes in Emissions and Climate on Background and Extreme Levels of Air Pollution

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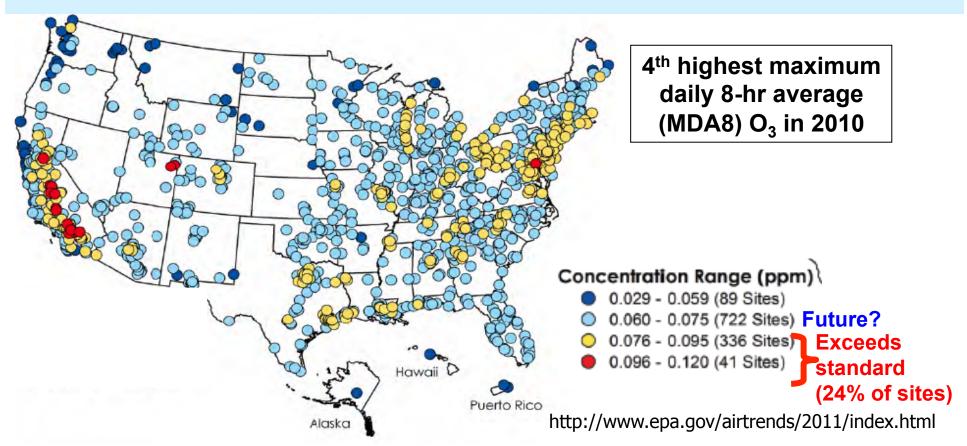
Acknowledgments:

Elizabeth Barnes (NOAA/LDEO, now CSU), Olivia Clifton, Harald Rieder, Gus Correa (LDEO), Meiyun Lin (Princeton/GFDL), Larry Horowitz (GFDL), Vaishali Naik (UCAR/GFDL)



Symposium on Abrupt Climate Change in a Warming World LDEO, Palisades, NY May 23, 2013

The U.S. ozone smog problem is spatially widespread, affecting ~108 million people [U.S. EPA, 2012]

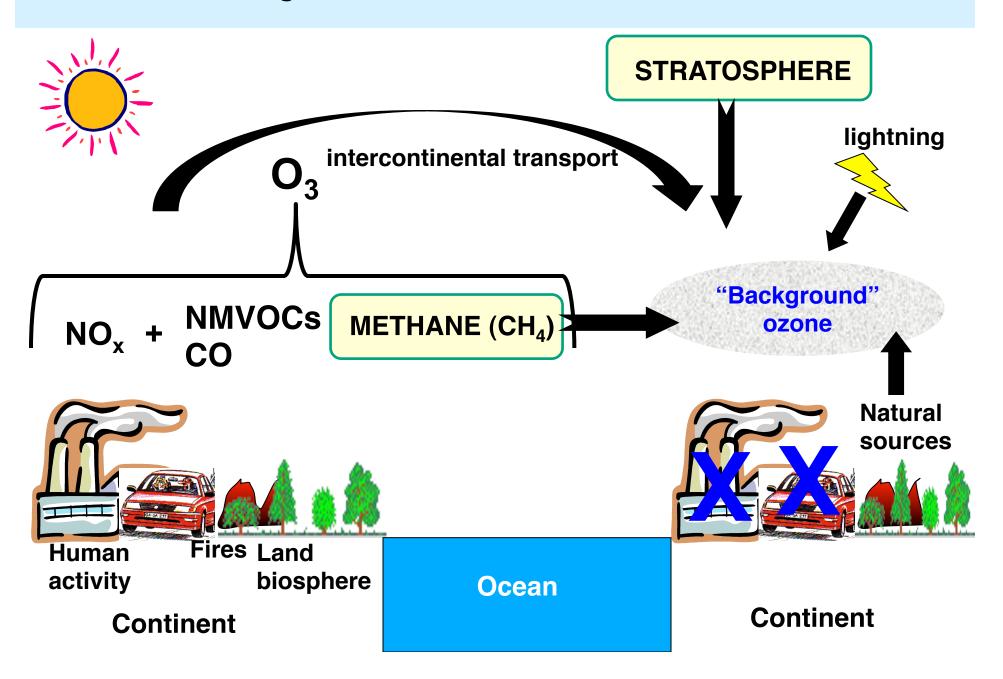


High-O₃ events typically occur in

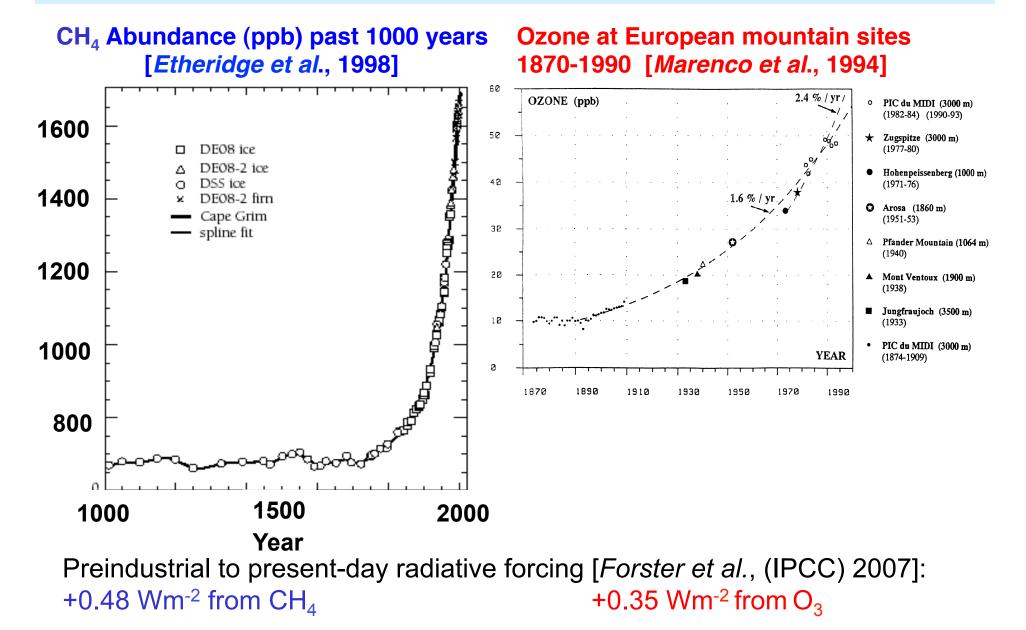
- -- densely populated areas (local sources)
- -- summer (favorable meteorological conditions)

→ Lower threshold would greatly expand non-attainment regions

Tropospheric O₃ formation & "Background" contributions

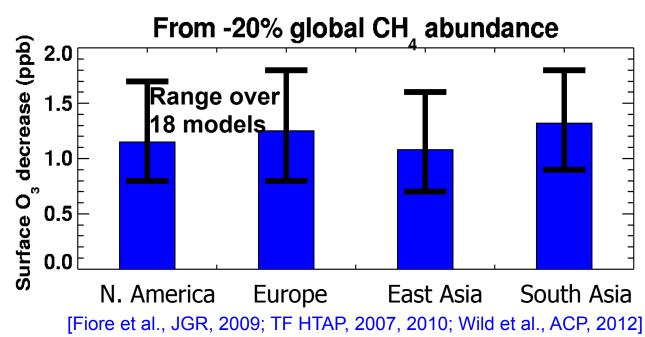


Historical increase in atmospheric methane and ozone (#2 and #3 greenhouse gases after carbon dioxide [*IPCC, 2007*])



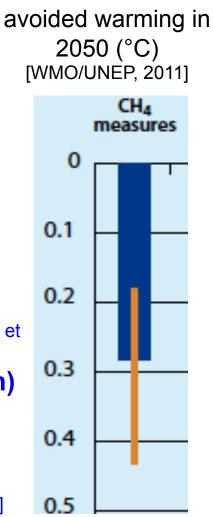
Benefits of ~25% decrease in global anthrop. CH₄ emissions

OZONE AIR QUALITY



CLIMATE

Global mean

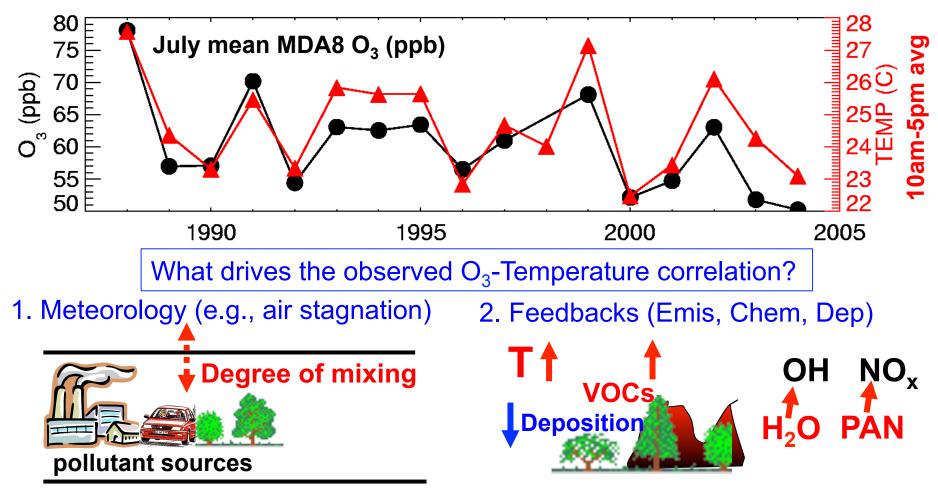


- → Possible at cost-savings / low-cost [West & Fiore 2005; West et al.,2012]
- → \$1.4 billion (agriculture, forestry, non-mortality health) within U.S. alone [West and Fiore, 2005]
- → 7700-400,000 annual avoided cardiopulmonary premature mortalities in the N. Hemisphere

uncertainty in concentration-response relationship only [Anenberg et al., ES&T, 2009]

Strong correlations between surface temperature and O₃ measurements on daily to inter-annual time scales in polluted regions [e.g., Bloomer et al., 2009; Camalier et al., 2007; Cardelino and Chameides, 1990; Clark and Karl, 1982; Korsog and Wolff, 1991]

Observations at U.S. EPA CASTNet site Penn State, PA 41N, 78W, 378m

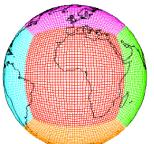


 \rightarrow Implies that changes in climate will influence air quality

How will surface O₃ distributions evolve with future changes in emissions and climate?

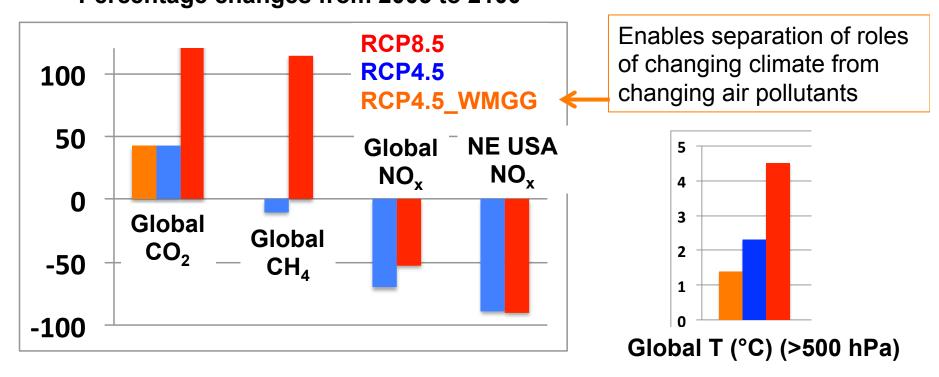
Tool: GFDL CM3 chemistry-climate model

- ~2°x2°; 48 levels
- Over 6000 years of climate simulations that include chemistry (air quality)
- Options for nudging to re-analysis + global high-res ~50km² [*Lin et al., JGR, 2012ab*]

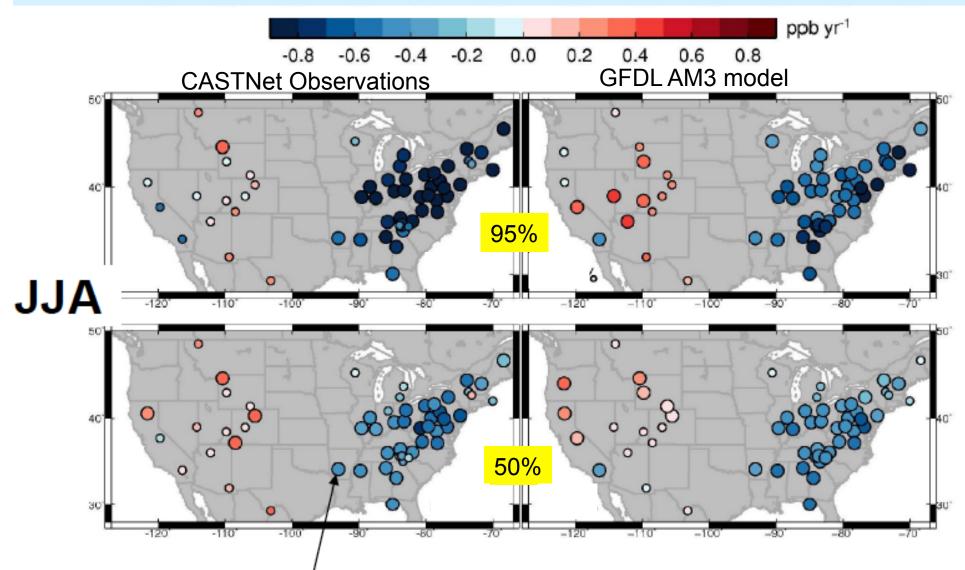


Donner et al., J. Climate, 2011; Golaz et al., J. Climate, 2011; John et al., ACP, 2012 Turner et al., ACP, 2012 Naik et al., submitted Horowitz et al., in prep

Climate / Emission Scenarios: Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) Percentage changes from 2005 to 2100

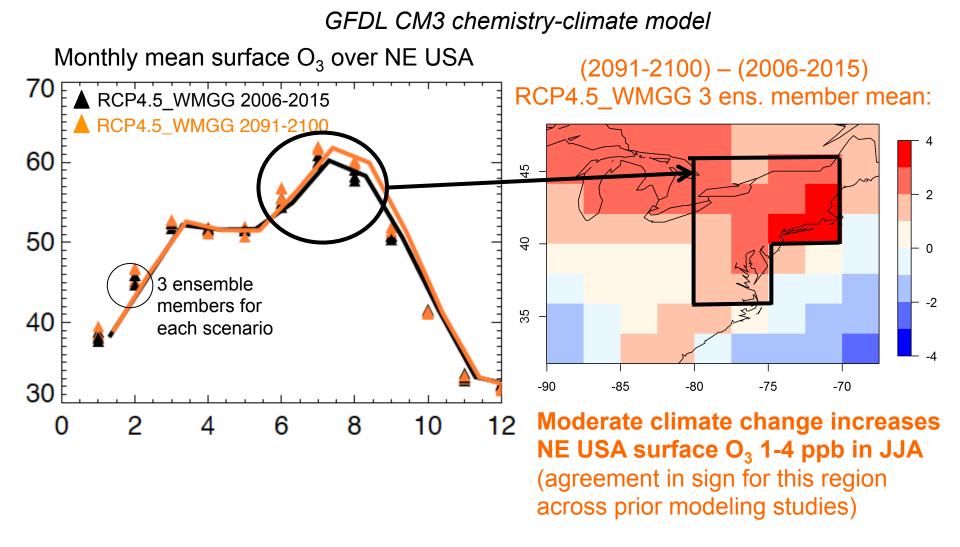


GFDL AM3 model captures key features of observed surface O_3 trends (1988-2012): larger decreases in 95% vs. 50% over EUS; increases in WUS



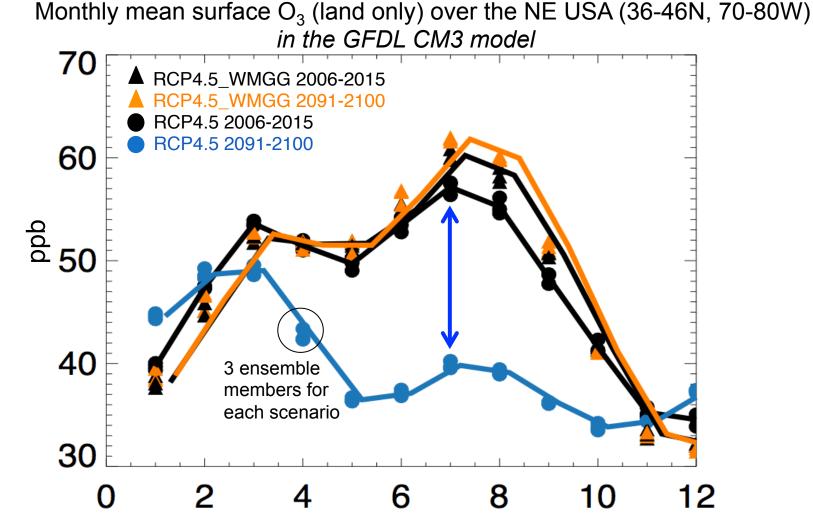
Larger circles indicate statistically significant trends (P<0.05) Meiyun Lin, Princeton/GFDL

Regional climate change over the NE USA leads to higher summertime surface O_3 ("climate penalty" [Wu et al., JGR, 2008])



How does NE USA O₃ respond to changing regional and global emissions? O. Clifton/H. Rieder

Large NO_x decreases fully offset any 'climate penalty' on surface O₃ over NE USA under moderate warming scenario

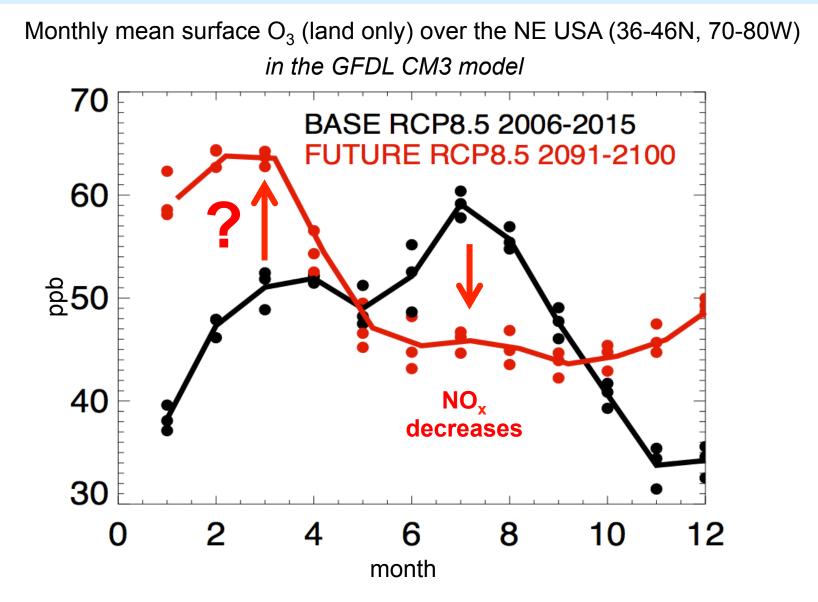


→ Seasonal cycle reverses; NE US looks like a remote background site!

→ Signatures of changing emissions in observed shifts in seasonal cycles [Parrish et al., GRL, 2013]?

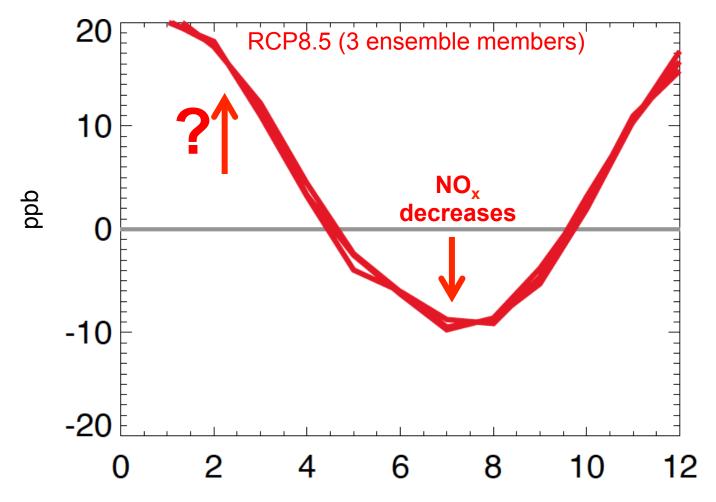
O. Clifton

Surface O₃ seasonal cycle over NE USA reverses – cold season increases- under extreme warming scenario (RCP8.5)



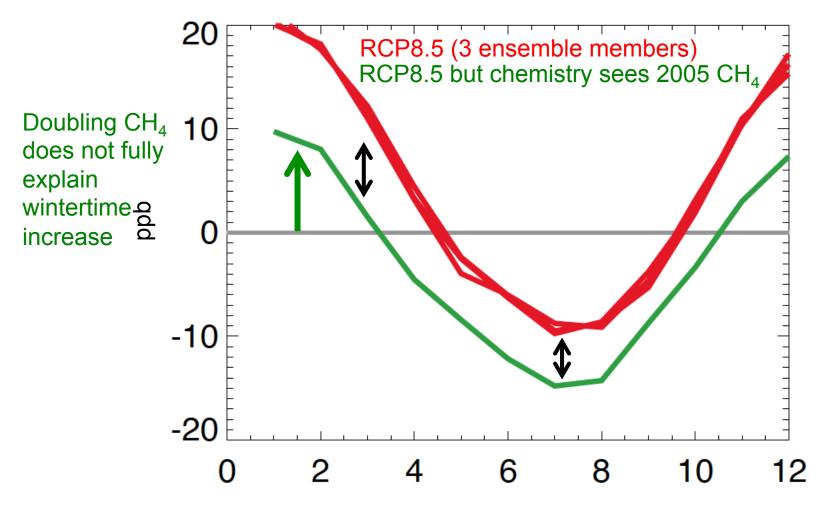
Why does surface O₃ increase in winter/spring over NE USA under RCP8.5?

Change in monthly mean surface O_3 (land only) over the NE USA (36-46N, 70-80W) (2091-2100) – (2006-2015)



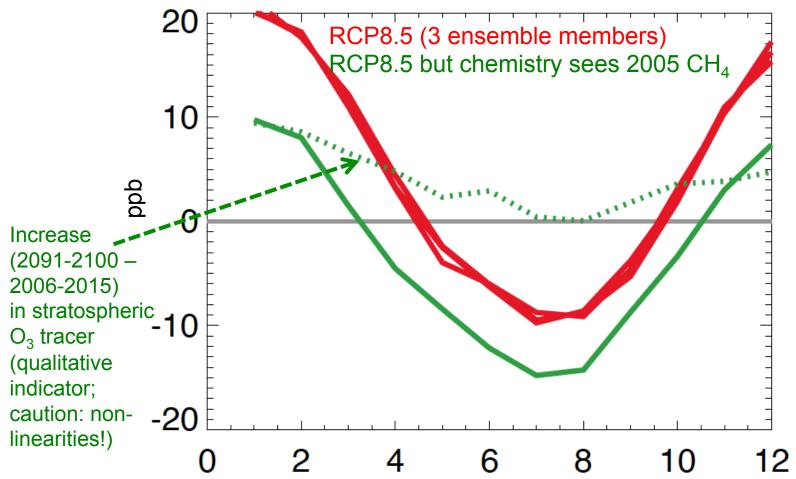
Doubling methane raises surface O₃ over NE USA ~5-10 ppb

Change in monthly mean surface O_3 (land only) over the NE USA (36-46N, 70-80W) (2091-2100) – (2006-2015)



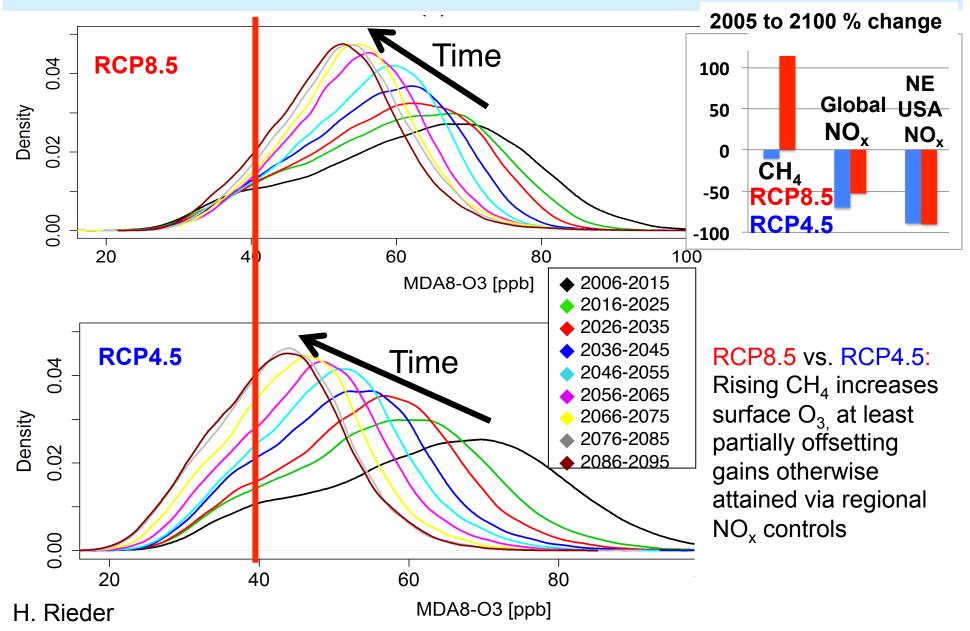
A contribution from enhanced stratosphere-to-troposphere ozone transport?

Change in monthly mean surface O_3 (land only) over the NE USA (36-46N, 70-80W) (2091-2100) – (2006-2015)

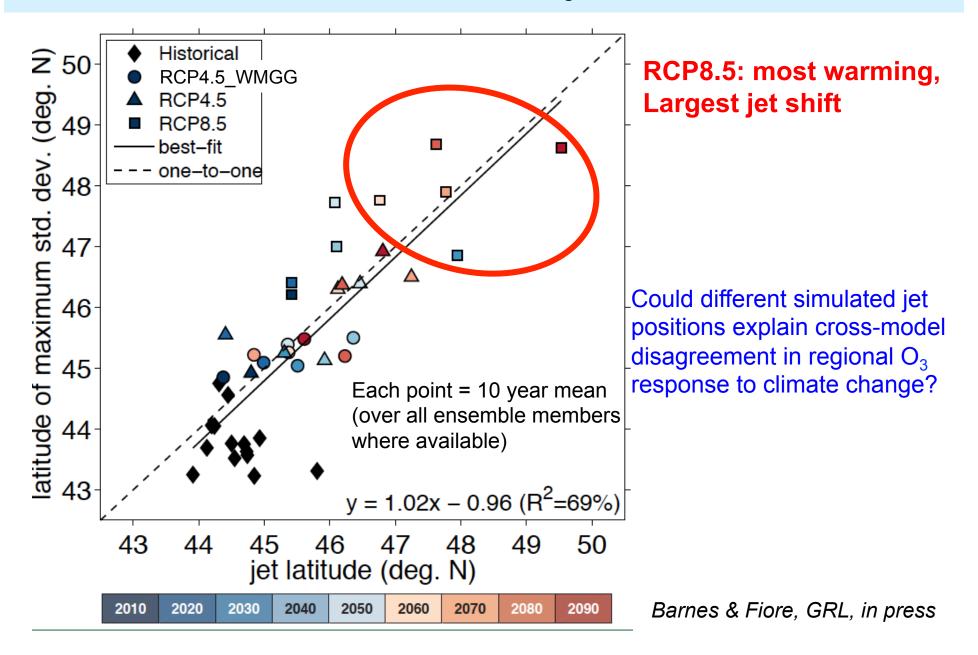


Recovery + climate-driven increase in STE? [e.g.,Butchart et al., 2006; Hegglin&Shepherd, 2009; Kawase et al., 2011; Li et al., 2008; Shindell et al. 2006; Zeng et al., 2010] Will the NE USA resemble present-day remote, high-altitude W US sites by 2100?

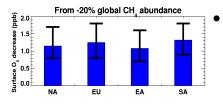
Extremes: The highest summertime surface O_3 events over NE USA decrease strongly under NO_x controls

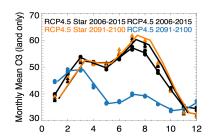


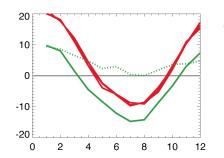
Peak latitude of summertime surface O₃ variability over Eastern N. America follows the jet as climate warms

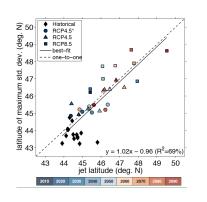


Influence of Changes in Emissions and Climate on Baseline and Extreme Levels of Air Pollution: Summary and Next Steps









Methane controls: 'win-win' for climate, air quality; also economic

- → Climate and Clean Air Coalition (http://www.unep.org/ccac/)
- \rightarrow Observational constraints on CH₄ oxidation (and resulting O₃)?
- Climate change may increase O_3 over NE USA but can be offset by NO_x reductions which preferentially decrease the highest O_3 events \rightarrow Other regions, seasons, with a focus on extremes \rightarrow Develop robust connections to changes in meteorology
- NO_x reductions combined with rising CH₄ & strat-to-trop O₃ transport fully reverse O₃ seasonal cycle over NE USA
 - → Ongoing evaluation of key processes (recent decades)
 → Long-term measurements crucial [e.g., Parrish et al., 2013]
- Zonal O_3 variability aligns with the 500 hPa jet over NE N. America
- Jet shifts can influence O₃:T [Barnes & Fiore, in press GRL]
 - \rightarrow Decadal shifts in jet; hold on shorter timescales?
 - \rightarrow Explore predictive power and extend beyond O₃
 - → Relevant to model differences in O₃ response to climate? [Weaver et al., 2009; Jacob & Winner, 2009; Fiore et al., 2012]